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Kim et al.

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(54) **SCAN DRIVING CIRCUIT AND DISPLAY DEVICE INCLUDING THE SAME**

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Jun. 22, 2021, now Pat. No. 11,600,231.

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G09G 3/3225 (2016.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **G09G 3/3266** (2013.01); **G09G 3/3225**
(2013.01); **G09G 2300/0819** (2013.01); **G09G**
2310/0213 (2013.01); **G09G 2330/021**
(2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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2310/0264; G09G 2310/0281
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A scan driving circuit includes: a driving circuit configured
to output a scan signal to an output terminal in response to
clock signals and a carry signal; and a masking circuit
configured to stop the driving circuit from outputting the
scan signal in response to a masking signal and a signal
indicating an operating state of the driving circuit.

19 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets

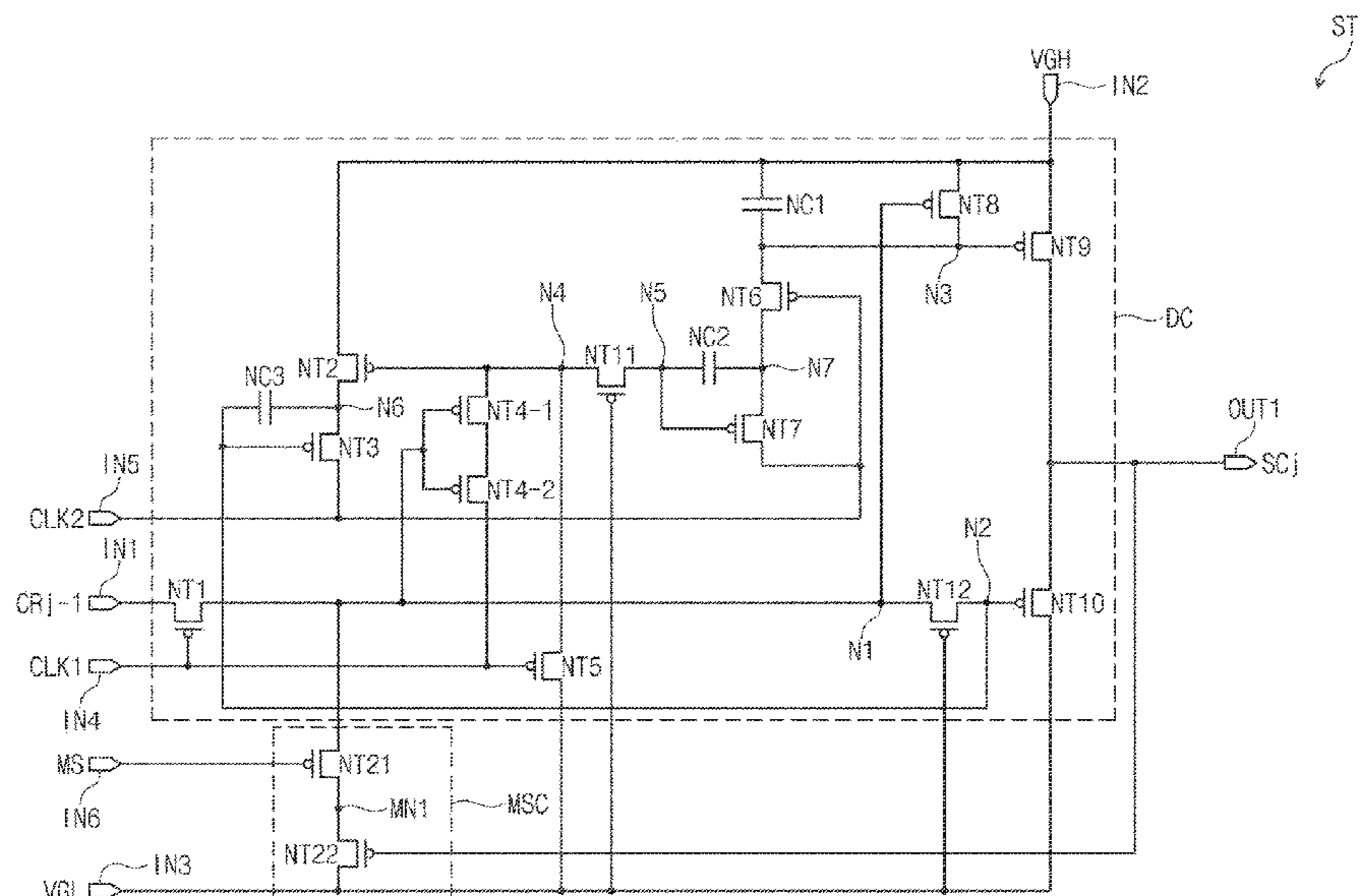


FIG. 1

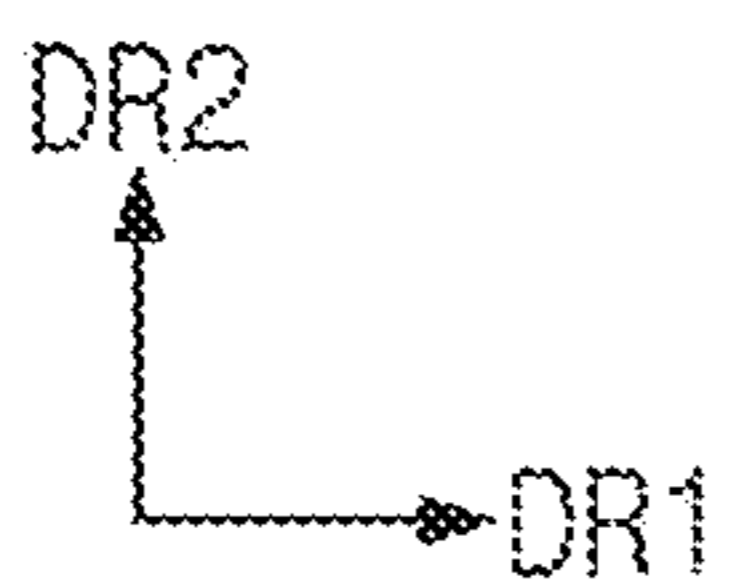
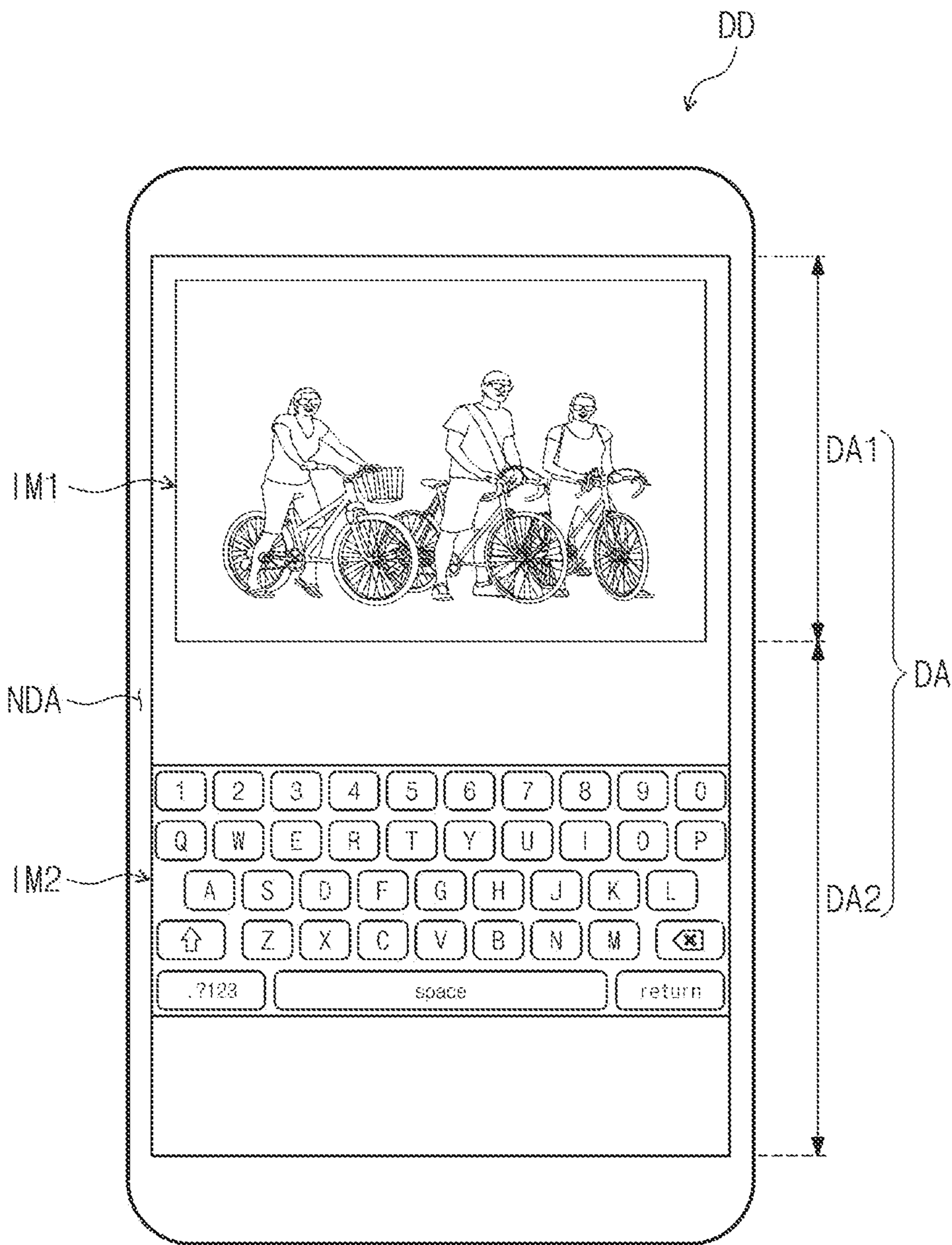


FIG. 2

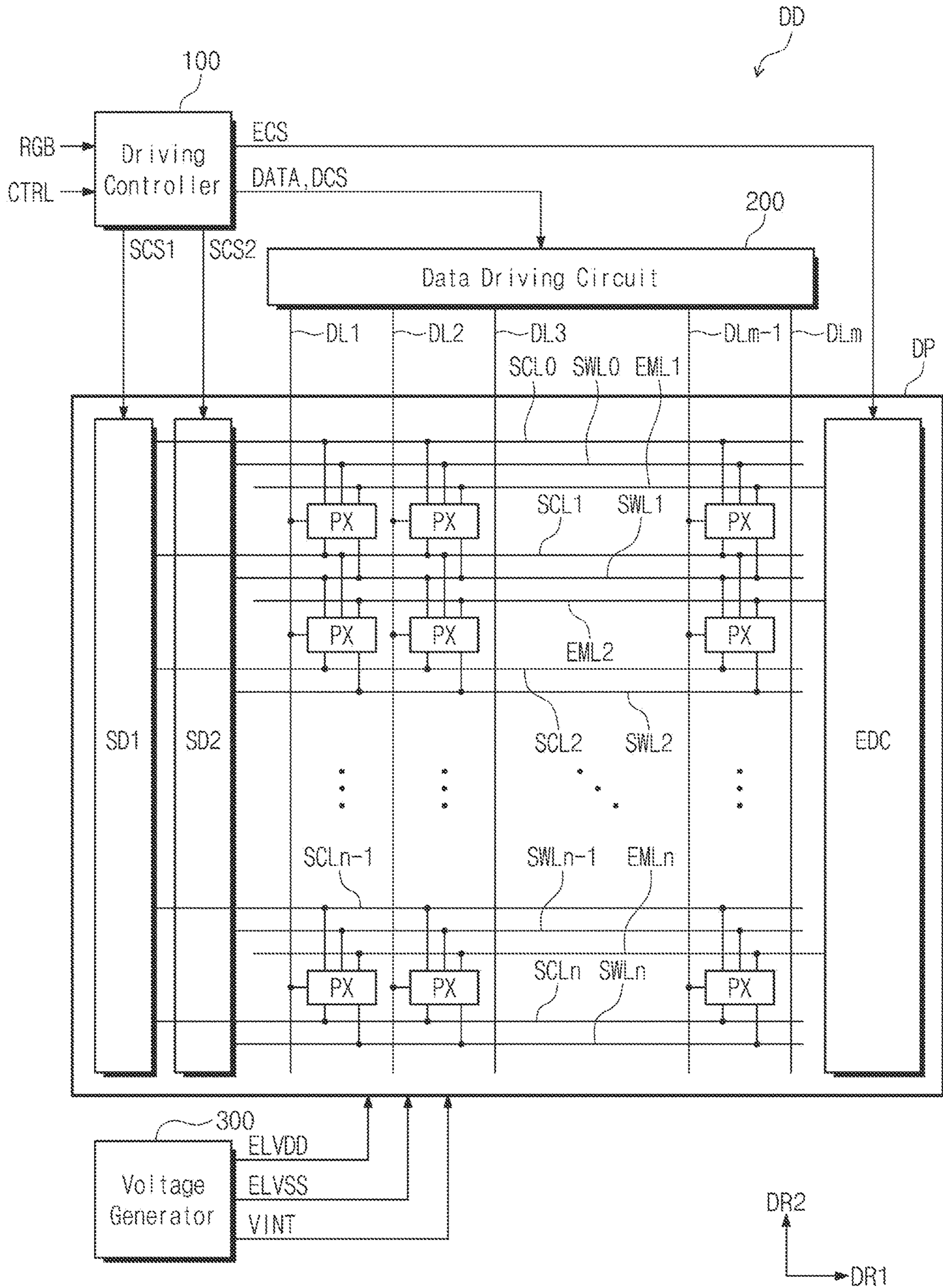


FIG. 3

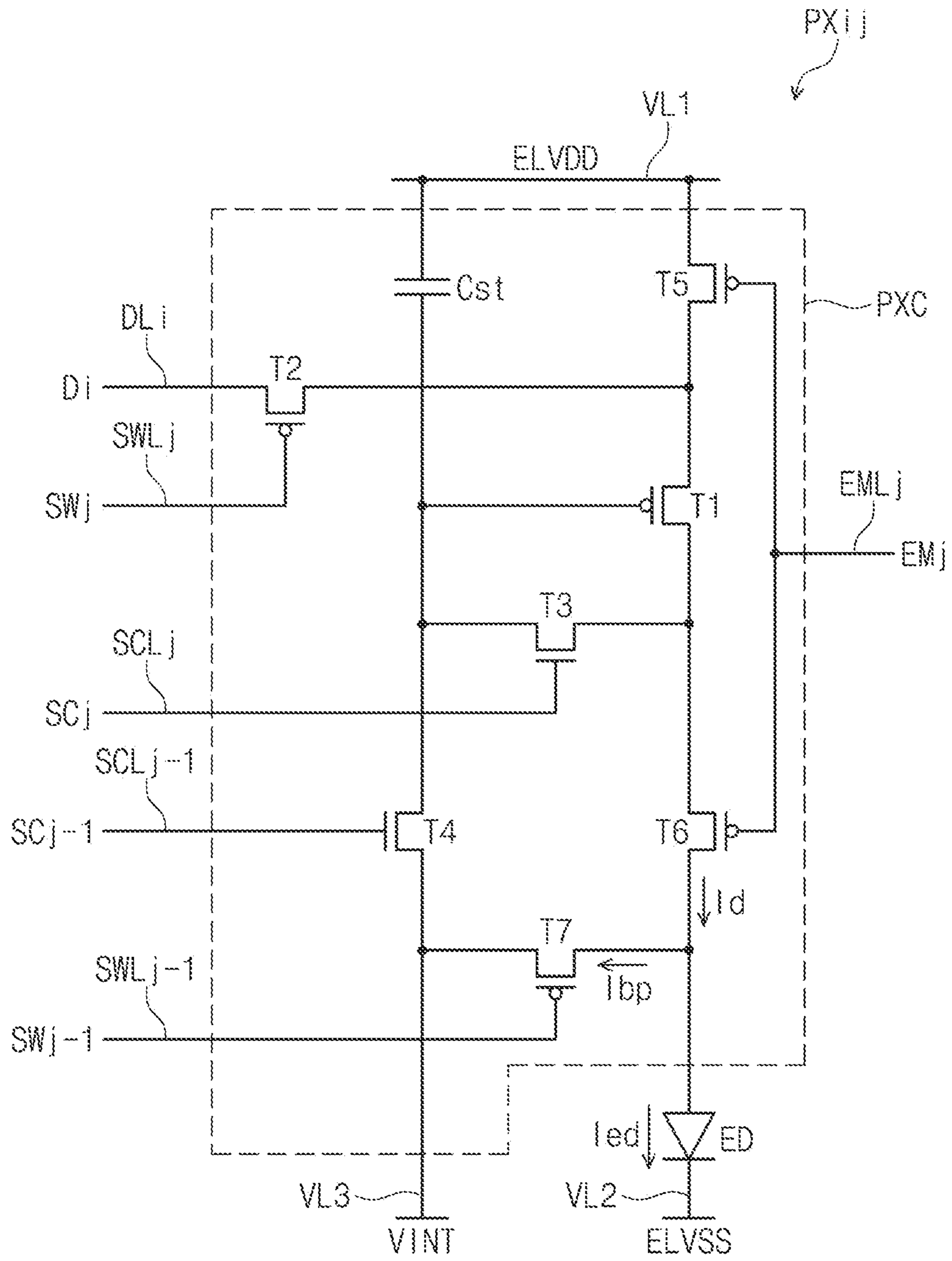


FIG. 4

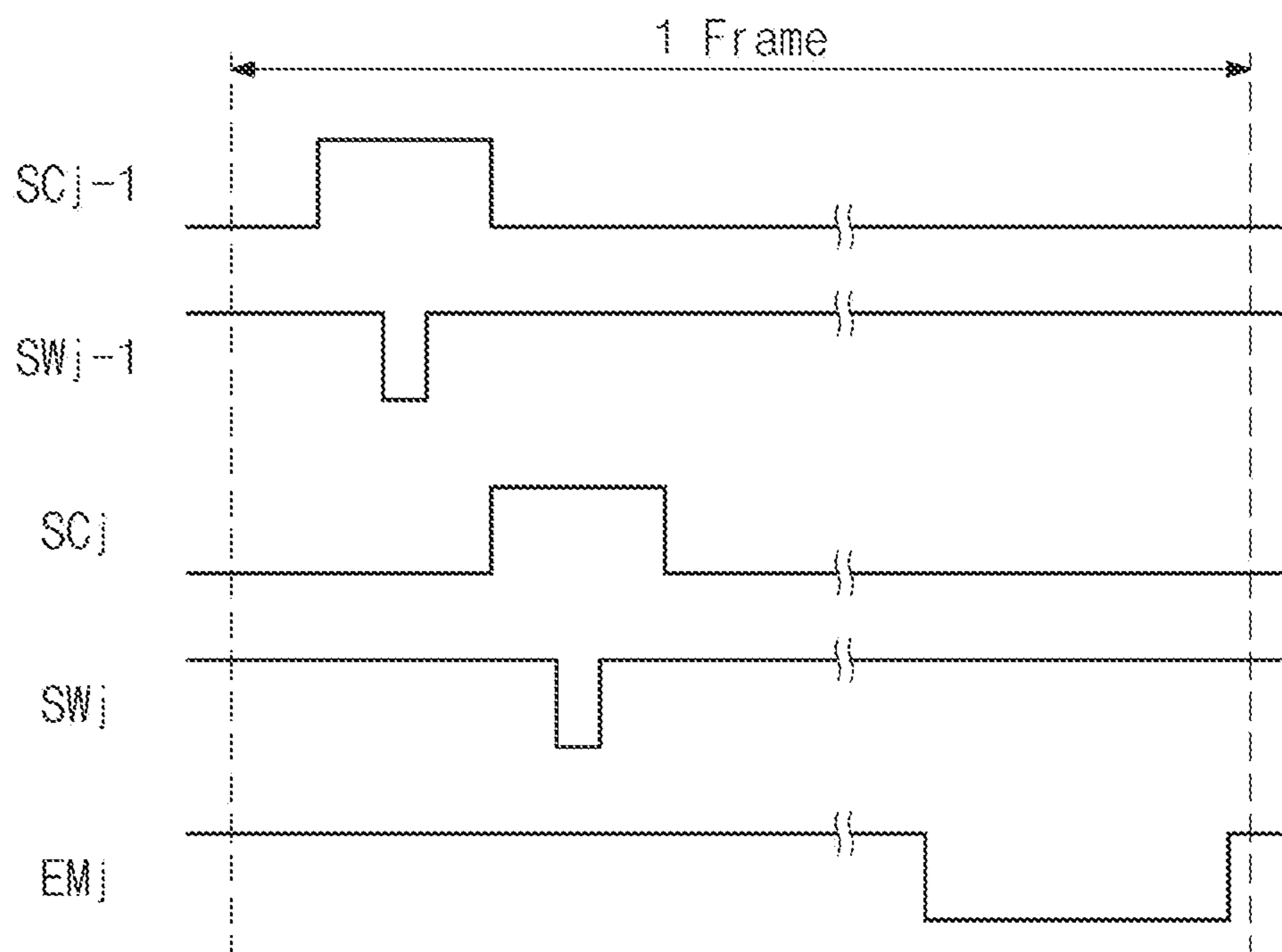


FIG. 5

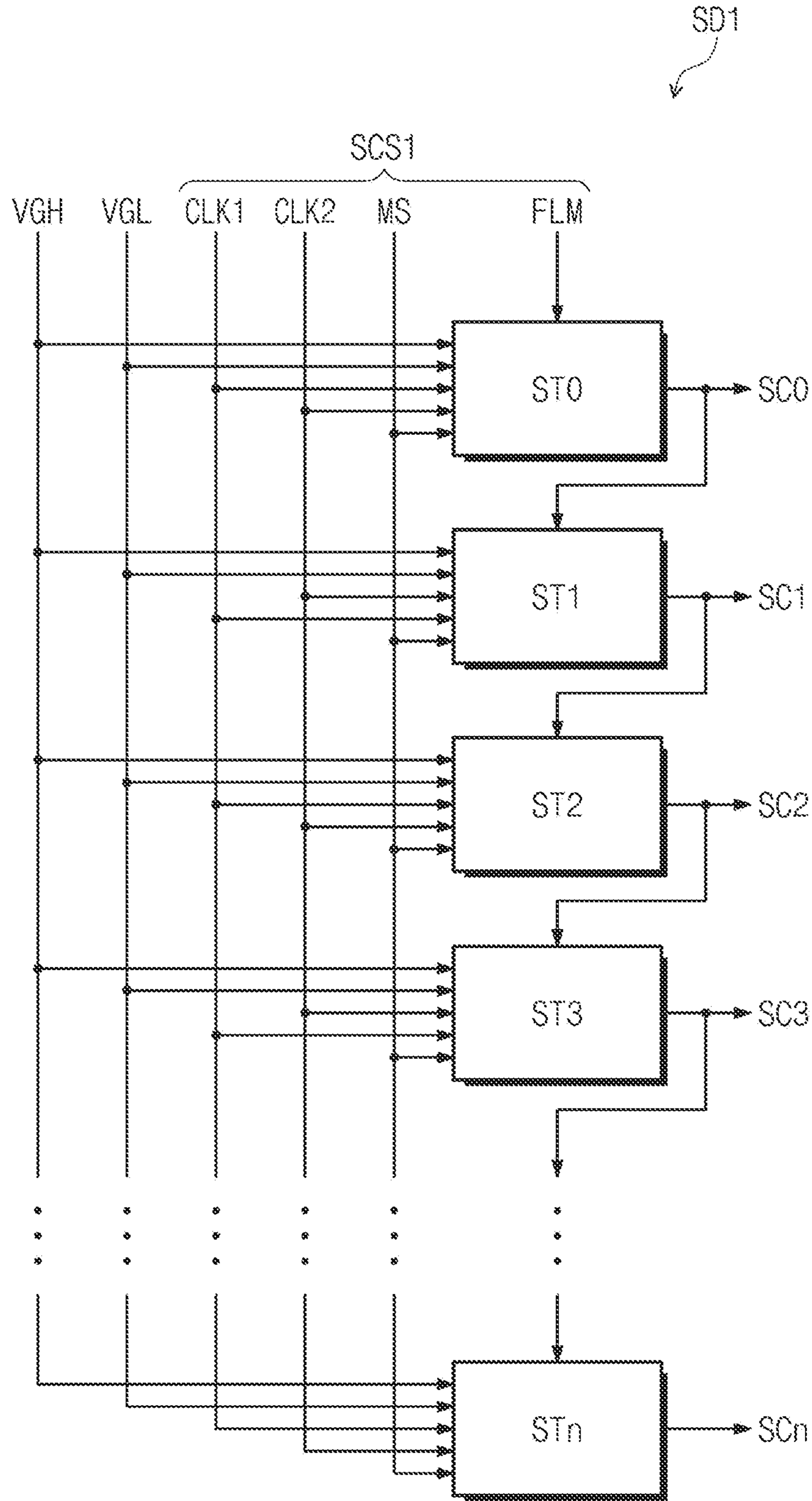


FIG. 6

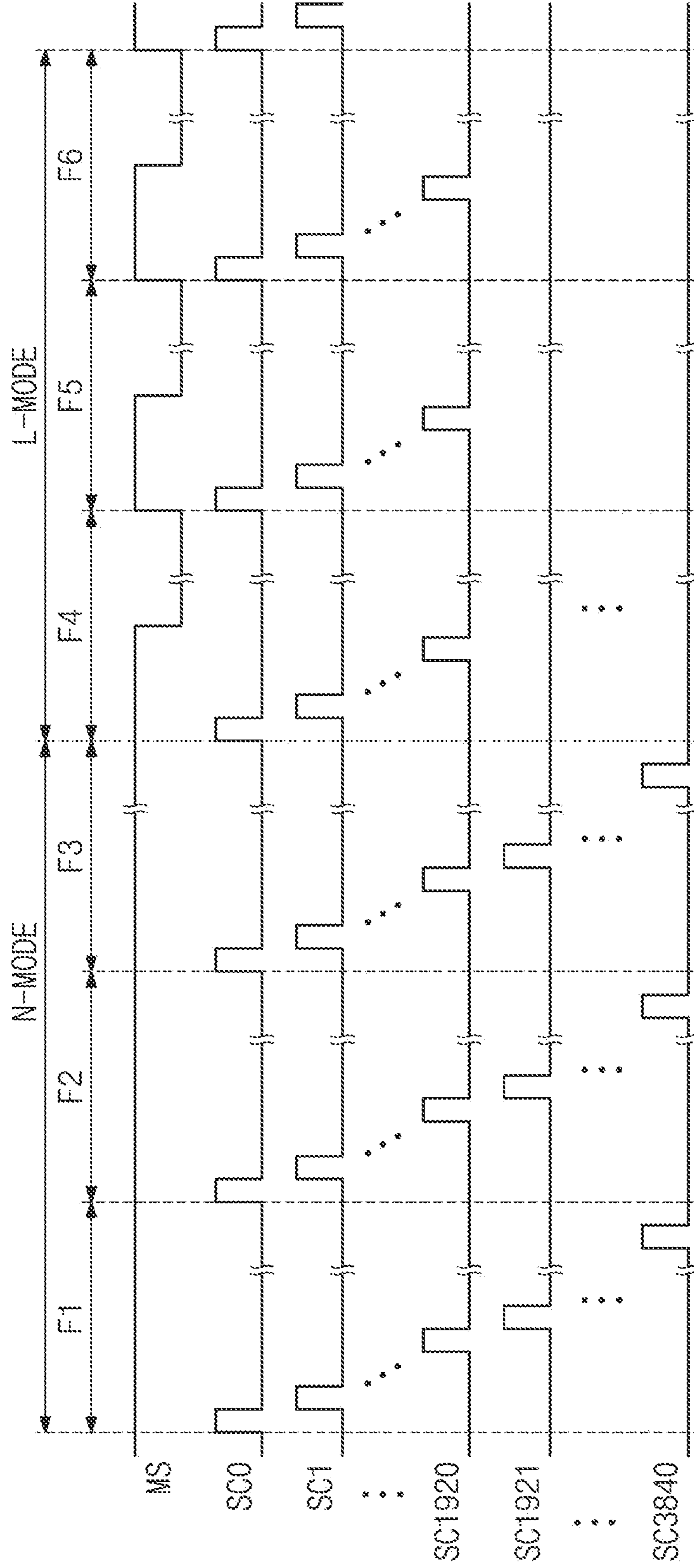


FIG. 7

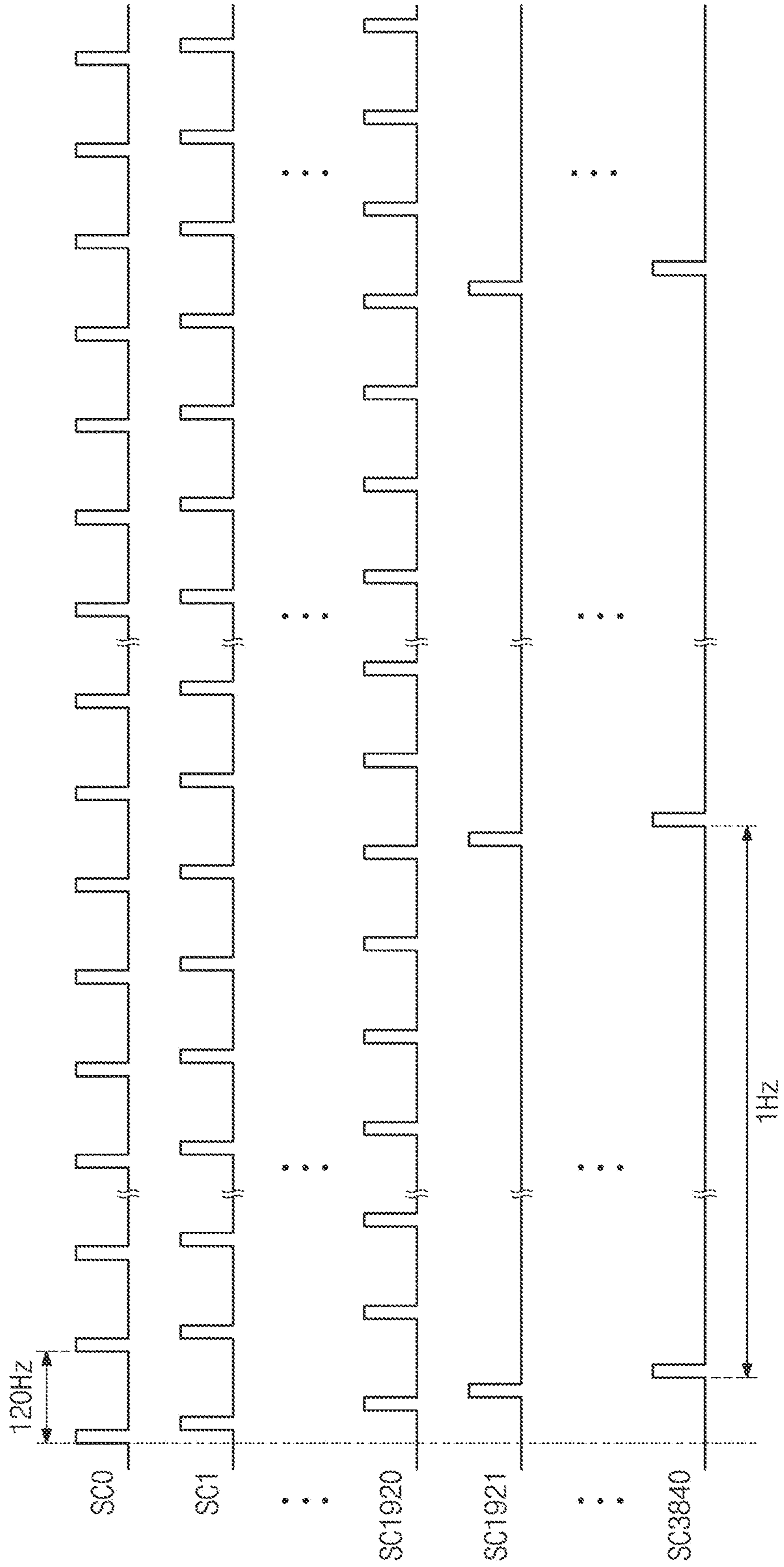


FIG. 8

STJ

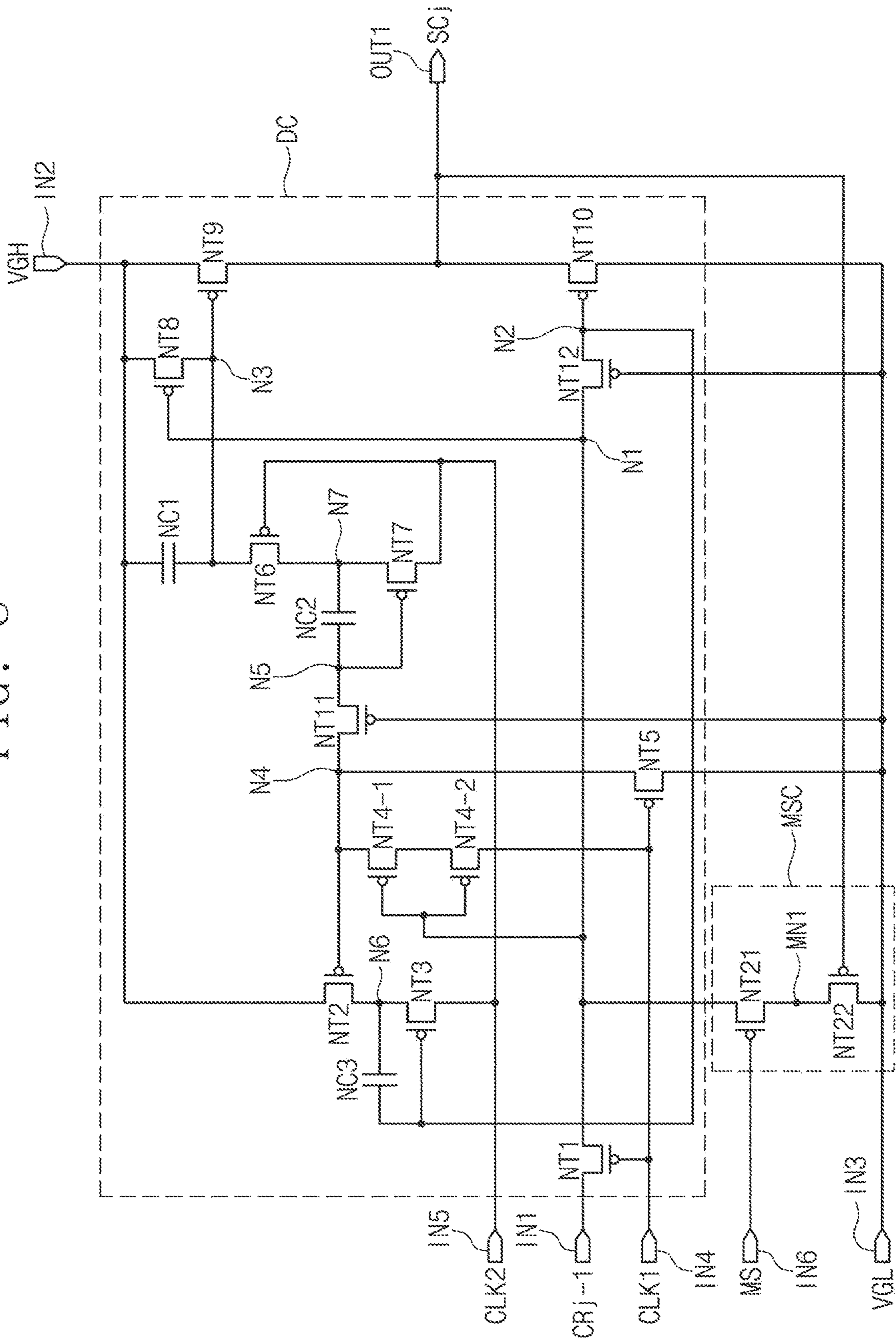


FIG. 9

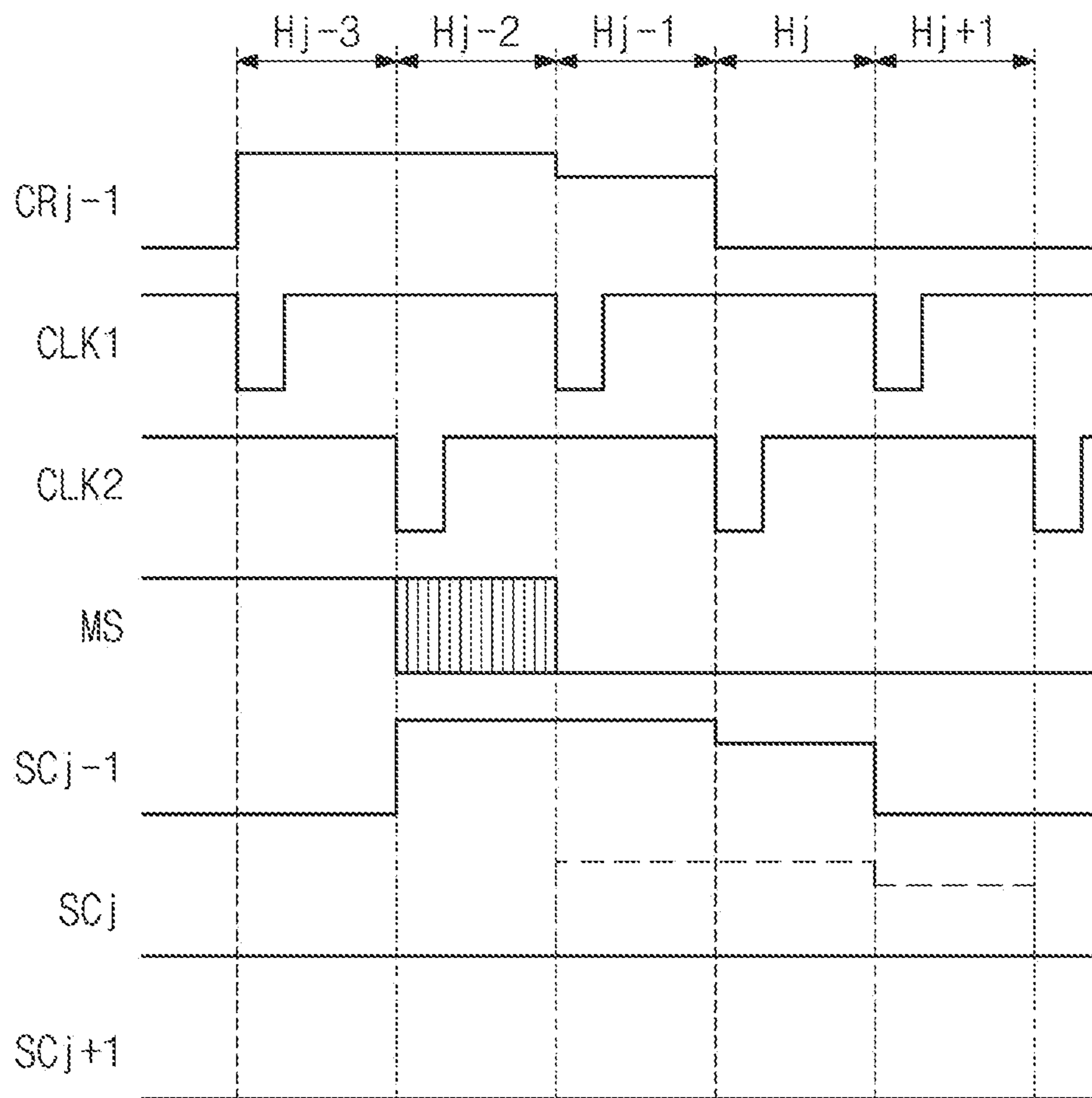


FIG. 10

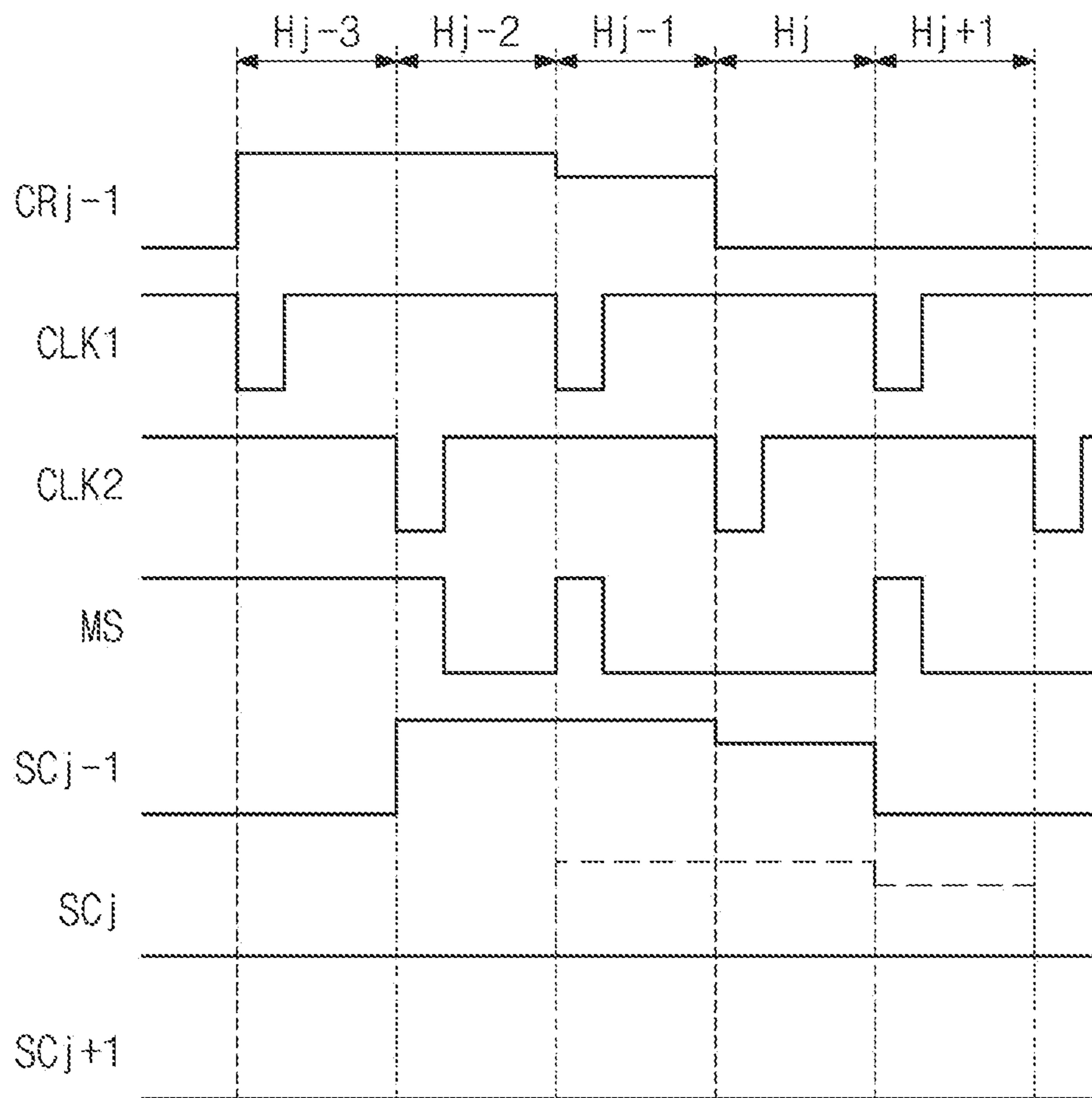


FIG. 11

STaj

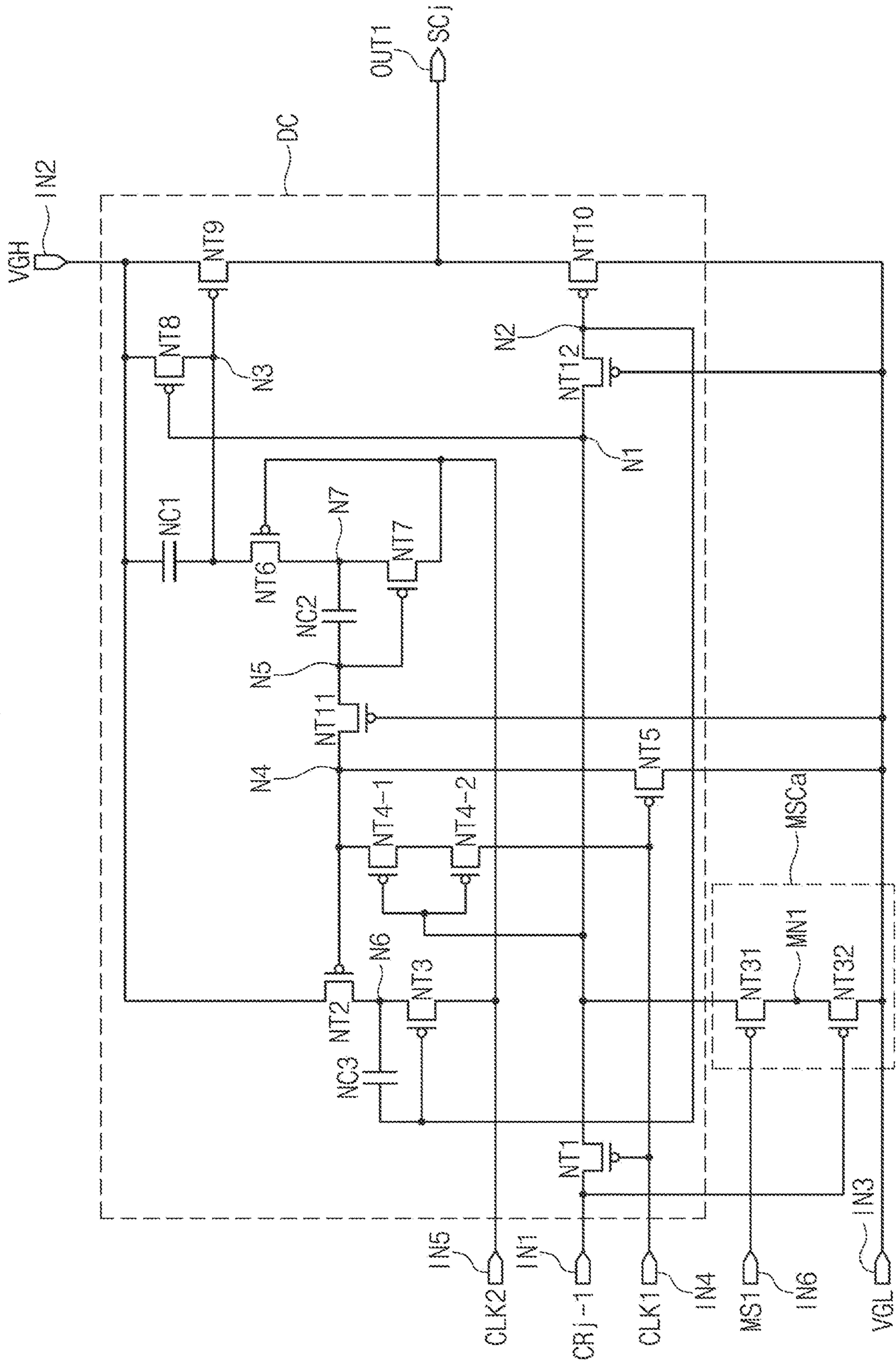


FIG. 12

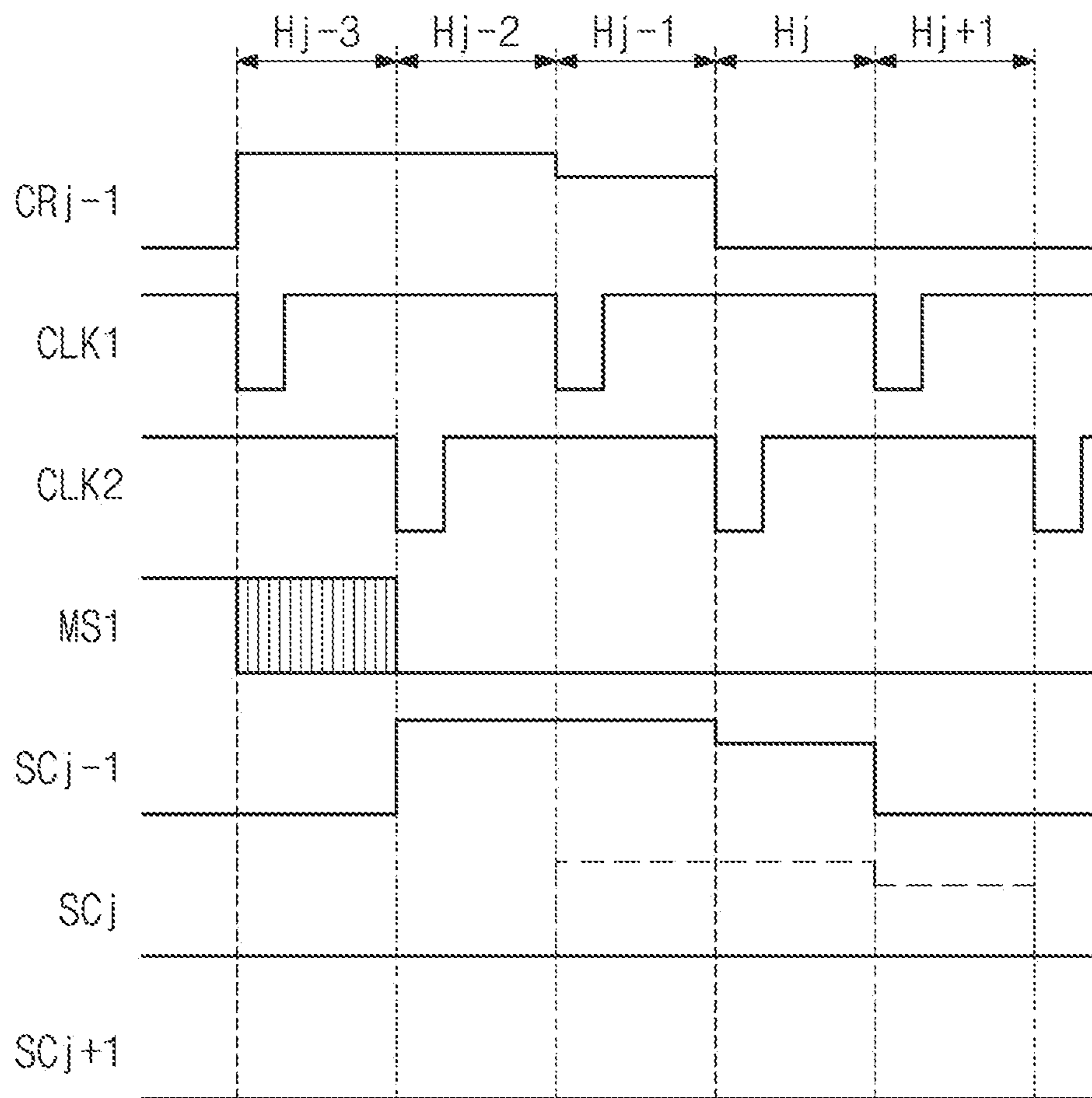
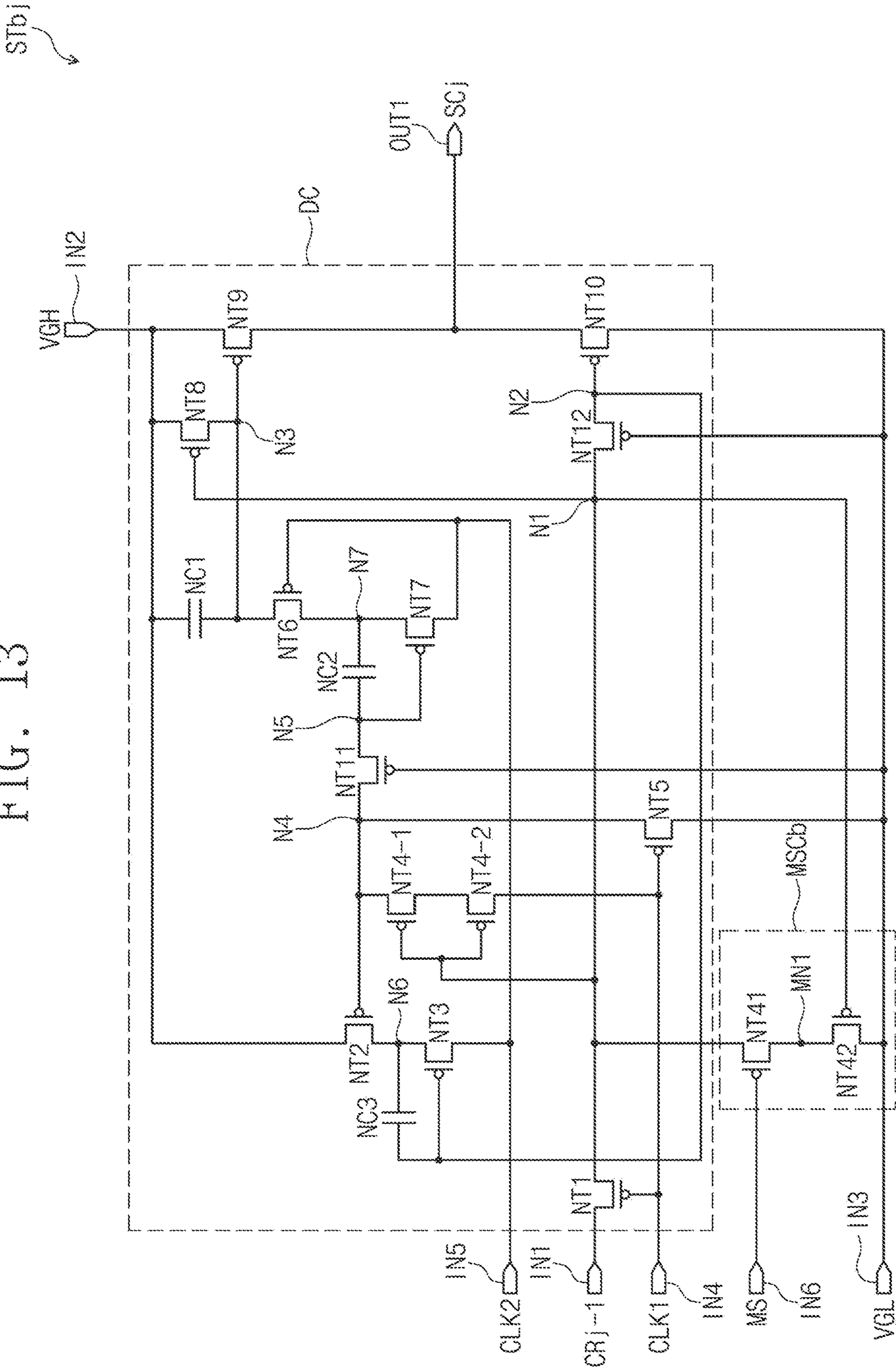


FIG. 13



STbj

FIG. 14

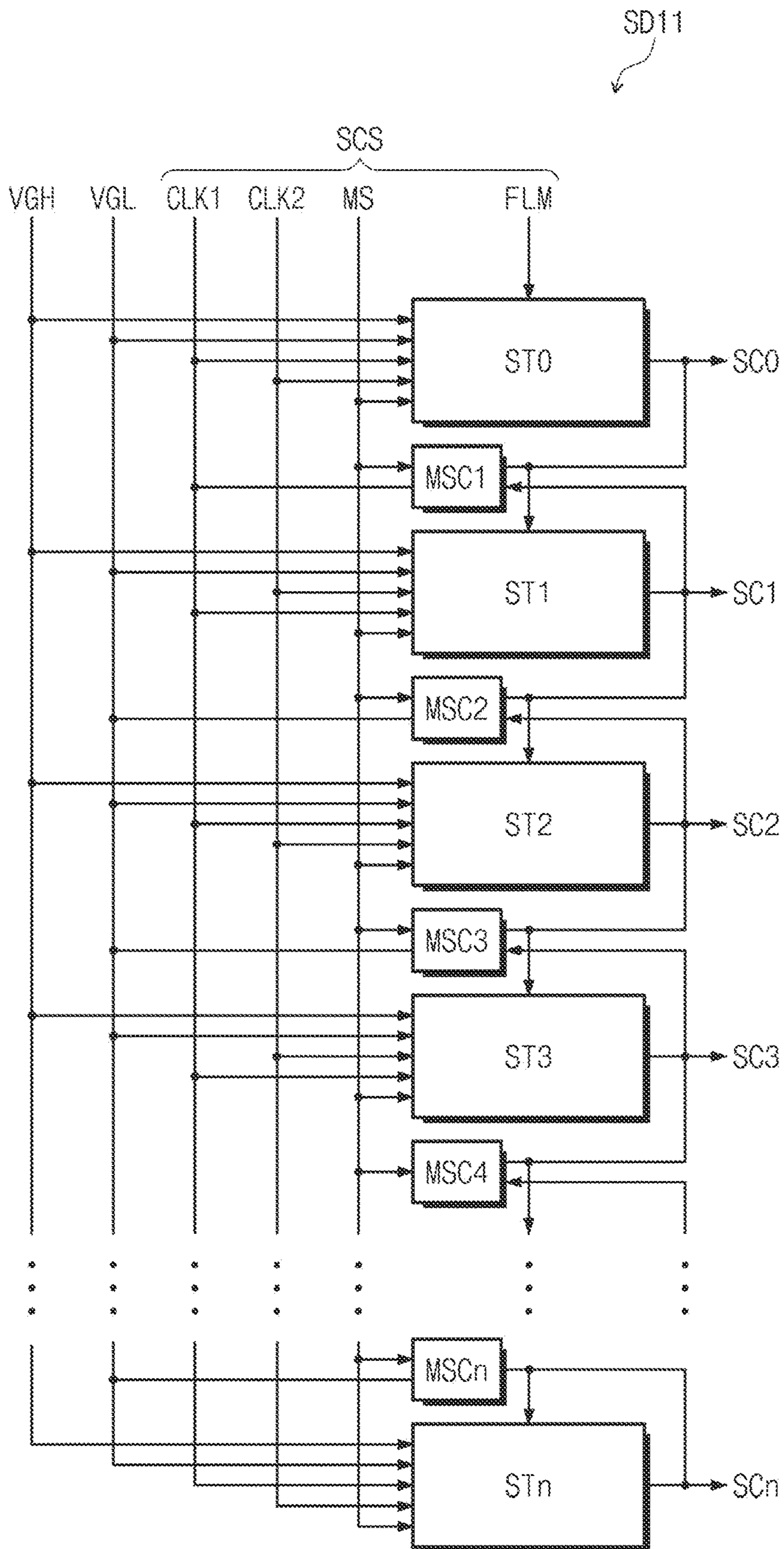


FIG. 15

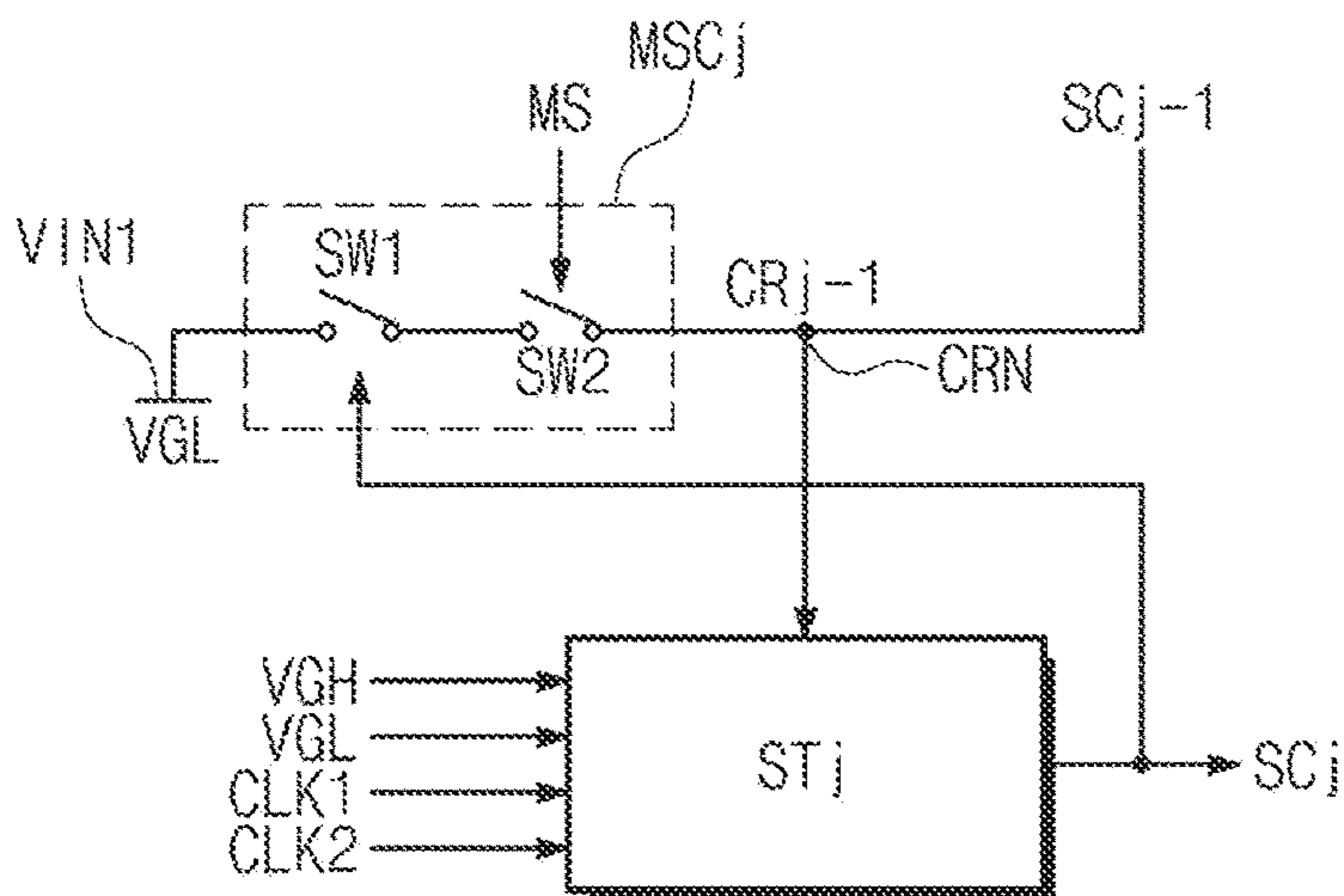


FIG. 16

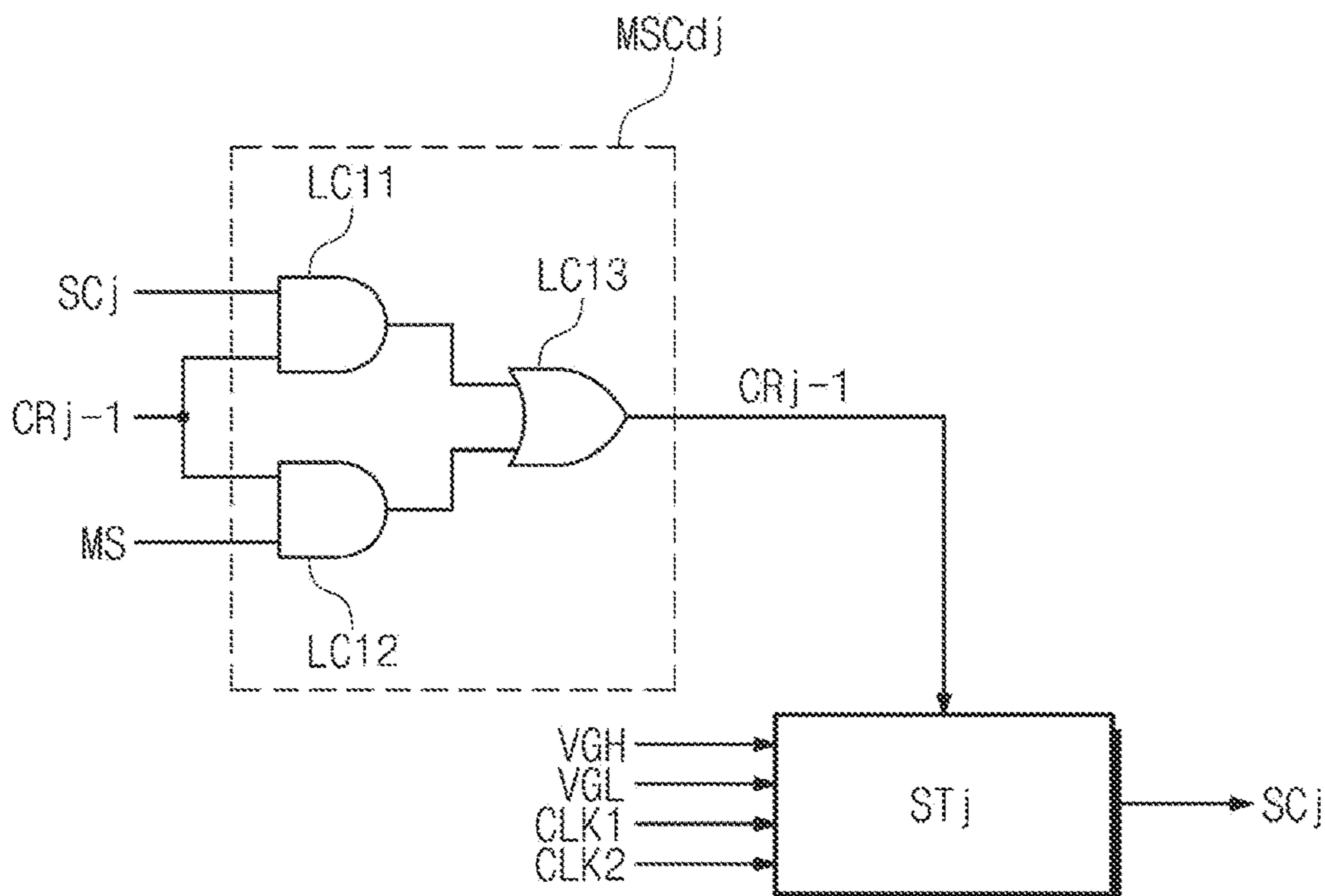
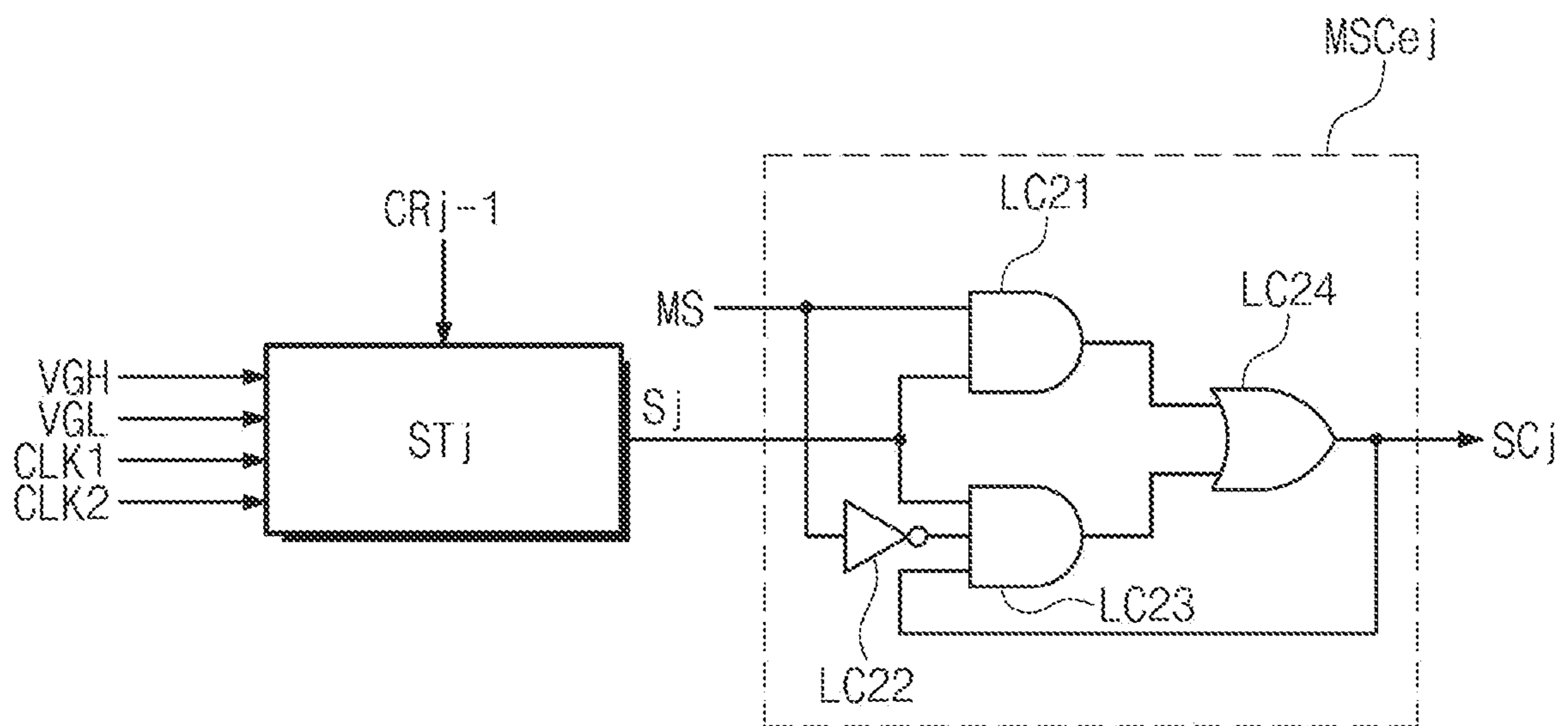


FIG. 17



SCAN DRIVING CIRCUIT AND DISPLAY DEVICE INCLUDING THE SAME

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/354,857, filed Jun. 22, 2021, which claims priority to and the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 10-2020-0078741, filed Jun. 26, 2020, the entire content of both of which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

1. Field

Aspects of some embodiments of the present disclosure herein relate to a display device.

2. Description of the Related Art

Among display devices, an organic light emitting display device displays images using an organic light emitting diode that generates light by recombination of electrons and holes. Organic light emitting display devices generally have a relatively fast response speed and are driven with relatively low power consumption.

An organic light emitting display device generally includes pixels connected to data lines and scan lines. Pixels generally include an organic light emitting diode and a circuit unit for controlling an amount of current flowing through the organic light emitting diode. The circuit unit controls the amount of current flowing from the first driving voltage to the second driving voltage through the organic light emitting diode in response to the data signal. In this case, light (e.g., with a set or predetermined luminance) is generated in response to the amount of current flowing through the organic light emitting diode.

As the application field of a display device becomes more diversified, a plurality of different images may be displayed on a single display device. There is a desire for a technology to reduce power consumption of a display device displaying a plurality of images.

The above information disclosed in this Background section is only for enhancement of understanding of the background and therefore the information discussed in this Background section does not necessarily constitute prior art.

SUMMARY

Aspects of some embodiments of the present disclosure herein relate to a display device, and for example, to a display device including a scan driving circuit.

Aspects of some embodiments of the inventive concept include a scan driving circuit capable of reducing power consumption and a display device including the same.

According to some embodiments of the inventive concept, a scan driving circuit includes: a driving circuit configured to output a scan signal to an output terminal in response to clock signals and a carry signal; and a masking circuit configured to stop the driving circuit from outputting the scan signal in response to a masking signal and a signal indicating an operating state of the driving circuit.

According to some embodiments, the signal indicating the operating state of the driving circuit may be any one of the carry signal and the scan signal.

According to some embodiments, the driving circuit may include: a first transistor configured to transmit the carry signal to a first node in response to a first clock signal among the clock signals; and a second transistor connecting the output terminal to a first voltage terminal receiving a first voltage in response to a signal of the first node.

According to some embodiments, the masking circuit may include: a first masking transistor connected between the first node and a masking node and including a gate electrode connected to an input terminal receiving the masking signal; and a second masking transistor connected between the masking node and the first voltage terminal and including a gate electrode connected to the output terminal.

According to some embodiments, the masking circuit may include: a first masking transistor connected between the first node and a masking node and including a gate electrode connected to an input terminal receiving the masking signal; and a second masking transistor connected between the masking node and the first voltage terminal and including a gate electrode connected to an input terminal receiving the carry signal.

According to some embodiments, the masking circuit may include: a first masking transistor connected between the first node and a masking node and including a gate electrode connected to an input terminal receiving the masking signal; and a second masking transistor connected between the masking node and the first voltage terminal and including a gate electrode connected to the first node.

According to some embodiments, the driving circuit may further include: a third transistor connected between a second voltage terminal receiving a second voltage and the output terminal and including a gate electrode connected to a second node; and a fourth transistor connected between the second voltage terminal and the second node and including a gate electrode connected to the first node.

According to some embodiments, the masking circuit may include: a first switch electrically connecting a first terminal receiving a first voltage and a second terminal in response to the scan signal; and a second switch electrically connecting an input terminal receiving the carry signal and the second terminal of the first switch in response to the masking signal.

According to some embodiments, the masking circuit may include: a first logic circuit configured to receive the scan signal and the carry signal; a second logic circuit configured to receive the carry signal and the masking signal; and a third logic circuit configured to receive an output signal of the first logic circuit and an output signal of the second logic circuit and provide the carry signal to the driving circuit.

According to some embodiments, the masking circuit may include: a first logic circuit configured to receive the masking signal and the scan signal output from the driving circuit; a second logic circuit configured to invert and output the masking signal; a third logic circuit configured to receive the scan signal output from the driving circuit, an inverted masking signal output from the second logic circuit, and an output scan signal; and a fourth logic circuit configured to receive an output signal of the first logic circuit and an output signal of the second logic circuit and output the output scan signal.

According to some embodiments of the inventive concept, a display device includes: a display panel including a plurality of pixels respectively connected to a plurality of data lines and a plurality of scan lines; a data driving circuit configured to drive the plurality of data lines; a scan driving circuit configured to drive the plurality of scan lines; and a

driving controller configured to receive an image signal and a control signal and to control the data driving circuit and the scan driving circuit to display an image on the display panel, wherein the driving controller divides the display panel into a first display area and a second display area based on the image signal, and outputs a masking signal indicating a start point of the second display area, wherein the scan driving circuit includes a plurality of driving stages each driving a corresponding scan line among the plurality of scan lines, wherein each of the plurality of driving stages includes: a driving circuit configured to output a scan signal to an output terminal in response to clock signals and a carry signal from the driving controller; and a masking circuit configured to stop the driving circuit from outputting the scan signal in response to the masking signal and a signal indicating an operating state of a corresponding driving stage among the plurality of driving stages.

According to some embodiments, the signal indicating the operating state of the corresponding driving stage may be any one of the carry signal and the scan signal.

According to some embodiments, the scan signal output from a j -th driving stage among the plurality of driving stages may be provided as a carry signal of the $(j+k)$ -th driving stage (j, k are natural numbers).

According to some embodiments, each of the plurality of driving stages may include: a first transistor configured to transmit the carry signal to a first node in response to a first clock signal among the clock signals; and a second transistor connecting the output terminal to a first voltage terminal receiving a first voltage in response to a signal from the first node

According to some embodiments, the masking circuit may include: a first masking transistor connected between the first node and a masking node and including a gate electrode connected to an input terminal receiving the masking signal; and a second masking transistor connected between the masking node and the first voltage terminal and including a gate electrode connected to the output terminal.

According to some embodiments, when a start point of the second display area corresponds to a j -th scan line, the masking signal may transition to a level of turning on the first masking transistor while a $(j-1)$ -th scan signal is at an active level and a j -th scan signal is at an inactive level.

According to some embodiments, the masking circuit may include: a first masking transistor connected between the first node and a masking node and including a gate electrode connected to an input terminal receiving the masking signal; and a second masking transistor connected between the masking node and the first voltage terminal and including a gate electrode connected to an input terminal receiving the carry signal.

According to some embodiments, when a start point of the second display area corresponds to a j -th scan line, the masking signal may transition to a level of turning on the first masking transistor while a $(j-2)$ -th scan signal is at an active level and a $(j-1)$ -th scan signal is at an inactive level.

According to some embodiments, the masking circuit may include: a first masking transistor connected between the first node and a masking node and including a gate electrode connected to an input terminal receiving the masking signal; and a second masking transistor connected between the masking node and the first voltage terminal and including a gate electrode connected to the first node.

According to some embodiments, the driving circuit further may include: a third transistor connected between a second voltage terminal receiving a second voltage and the output terminal and including a gate electrode connected to

a second node; and a fourth transistor connected between the second voltage terminal and the second node and including a gate electrode connected to the first node.

According to some embodiments, the masking circuit may include: a first switch electrically connecting a first terminal receiving a first voltage and a second terminal in response to the scan signal; and a second switch electrically connecting an input terminal receiving the carry signal and the second terminal of the first switch in response to the masking signal.

According to some embodiments, the masking circuit may include: a first logic circuit configured to receive the scan signal and the carry signal; a second logic circuit configured to receive the carry signal and the masking signal; and a third logic circuit configured to receive an output signal of the first logic circuit and an output signal of the second logic circuit and provide the carry signal to the driving circuit.

According to some embodiments, the masking circuit may include: a first logic circuit configured to receive the masking signal and the scan signal output from the driving circuit; a second logic circuit configured to invert and output the masking signal; a third logic circuit configured to receive the scan signal output from the driving circuit, the inverted masking signal output from the second logic circuit, and an output scan signal; and a fourth logic circuit configured to receive an output signal of the first logic circuit and an output signal of the second logic circuit and output the output scan signal.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings are included to provide a further understanding of embodiments according to the inventive concept, and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification. The drawings illustrate aspects of some embodiments of the inventive concept and, together with the description, serve to explain principles of some embodiments of the inventive concept. In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a display device according to some embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating a display device according to some embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 3 is an equivalent circuit diagram of a pixel according to some embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 4 is a timing diagram illustrating an operation of a pixel shown in FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is a block diagram of a scan driving circuit according to some embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 6 is a diagram illustrating scan signals output from the scan driving circuit illustrated in FIG. 5 in a normal mode and a low power mode;

FIG. 7 shows scan signals in a low power mode;

FIG. 8 is a circuit diagram showing a j -th driving stage ST_j in a scan driving circuit according to some embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 9 is a timing diagram illustrating operations of a $(j-1)$ -th driving stage and a j -th driving stage in a low power mode;

FIG. 10 is a timing diagram illustrating an operation of a j -th driving stage in a low power mode;

FIG. 11 is a circuit diagram showing a j -th driving stage in a scan driving circuit according to some embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 12 is a timing diagram illustrating an operation of a j -th driving stage in a low power mode;

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FIG. 13 is a circuit diagram showing a j-th driving stage in a scan driving circuit according to some embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 14 is a block diagram of a scan driving circuit according to some embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 15 shows a circuit configuration of a j-th masking circuit corresponding to a j-th driving stage among the masking circuits illustrated in FIG. 14;

FIG. 16 shows a circuit configuration of a j-th masking circuit corresponding to a j-th driving stage; and

FIG. 17 shows a circuit configuration of a j-th masking circuit corresponding to a j-th driving stage.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In this specification, when it is mentioned that a component (or, an area, a layer, a part, etc.) is referred to as being “on”, “connected to” or “combined to” another component, this means that the component may be directly on, connected to, or combined to the other component or a third component therebetween may be present.

Like reference numerals refer to like elements. Additionally, in the drawings, the thicknesses, proportions, and dimensions of components are exaggerated for effective description. “And/or” includes all of one or more combinations defined by related components.

It will be understood that the terms “first” and “second” are used herein to describe various components but these components should not be limited by these terms. The above terms are used only to distinguish one component from another. In one embodiment, for example, a first component may be referred to as a second component and vice versa without departing from the scope of the inventive concept. The terms of a singular form may include plural forms unless otherwise specified.

In addition, terms such as “below”, “the lower side”, “on”, and “the upper side” are used to describe a relationship of configurations shown in the drawing. The terms are described as a relative concept based on a direction shown in the drawing.

In various embodiments of the inventive concept, the term “include,” “comprise,” “including,” or “comprising,” specifies a property, a region, a fixed number, a step, a process, an element and/or a component but does not exclude other properties, regions, fixed numbers, steps, processes, elements and/or components.

Unless otherwise defined, all terms (including technical and scientific terms) used herein have the same meaning as terms commonly understood by those skilled in the art to which this invention belongs. In general, the terms defined in the dictionary should be considered to have the same meaning as the contextual meaning of the related art, and, unless clearly defined herein, should not be understood abnormally or as having an excessively formal meaning.

Hereinafter, aspects of some embodiments of the inventive concept will be described in more detail with reference to the drawings.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a display device according to some embodiments of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 1, a portable terminal is illustrated as a of a display device DD according to some embodiments of the inventive concept. The portable terminal may include a tablet PC, a smart phone, a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), a Portable Multimedia Player (PMP), a game console, a wristwatch type electronic device, and the like. However, embodiments according to the inventive concept are not limited thereto. The inventive concept may be used

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for large-sized electronic equipment such as a TV or an external billboard, and may also be used for small-sized electronic equipment such as a personal computer, a notebook computer, kiosks, a car navigation unit, and a camera. These are simply suggested as embodiments and it is obvious that they are employed in other electronic devices without departing from the scope of the inventive concept.

As shown in FIG. 1, the display surface on which a first image IM1 and a second image IM2 are displayed is parallel to a plane defined by a first direction DR1 and a second direction DR2. The display device DD includes a plurality of areas that are distinguished on the display surface. The display surface includes a display area DA in which the first and second images IM1 and IM2 are displayed, and a non-display area NDA adjacent to the display area DA. The non-display area NDA may be referred to as a bezel area. As one example, the display area DA may have a rectangular form. The non-display area NDA may surround the display area DA. Also, according to some embodiments, for example, the display device DD may have a partially curved shape. As a result, one area of the display area DA can have a curved shape.

The display area DA of the display device DD includes a first display area DA1 and a second display area DA2. In a specific application program, the first image IM1 may be displayed in the first display area DA1 and the second image IM2 may be displayed in the second display area DA2. According to some embodiments, for example, the first image IM1 may be a moving image, and the second image IM2 may be a still image or text information having a long change period.

The display device DD according to some embodiments may drive the first display area DA1 in which a moving image is displayed at a normal frequency, and drive the second display area DA2 in which a still image is displayed at a lower frequency than the normal frequency. The display device DD may reduce power consumption by lowering the driving frequency of the second display area DA2.

The sizes of each of the first and second display areas DA1 and DA2 may be preset sizes, and may be changed by an application program. According to some embodiments, when the first display area DA1 displays a still image and the second display area DA2 displays a moving image, the first display area DA1 may be driven at a low frequency, and the second display area DA2 may be driven at a normal frequency. In addition, the display area DA may be divided into three or more display areas, and a driving frequency of each of the display areas may be determined according to the type of image (e.g., still image or moving image) displayed in each of the display areas.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating a display device according to some embodiments of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 2, the display device DD includes a display panel DP, a driving controller 100, a data driving circuit 200, and a voltage generator 300.

The driving controller 100 receives an image signal RGB and a control signal CTRL. The driving controller 100 generates an image data signal DATA obtained by converting a data format of the image signal RGB to meet the specification of an interface with the data driving circuit 200. The driving controller 100 outputs a first scan control signal SCS1, a second scan control signal SCS2, a light emitting control signal ESC, and a data control signal DCS.

The data driving circuit 200 receives a data control signal DCS and an image data signal DATA from the driving controller 100. The data driving circuit 200 converts the image data signal DATA into data signals, and outputs the

data signals to a plurality of data lines DL1 to DLm to be described later. The data signals are analog voltages corresponding to gradation values of the image data signal DATA.

The voltage generator 300 generates voltages necessary for the operation of the display panel DP. According to some embodiments, the voltage generator 300 generates a first driving voltage ELVDD, a second driving voltage ELVSS, and an initialization voltage VINT. According to some embodiments, the voltage generator 300 may operate under the control of the driving controller 100.

The display panel DP includes a first scan driving circuit SD1, a second scan driving circuit SD2, a light emitting driving circuit EDC, scan lines SCL0 to SCLn, scan lines SWL0 to SWLn, light emitting control lines EML1 to EMLn, data lines DL1 to DLm, and pixels PX. According to some embodiments, the first scan driving circuit SD1 is arranged on the first side of the display panel DP.

The scan lines SCL0 to SCLn extend in a first direction DR1 from the first scan driving circuit SD1. The scan lines SWL0 to SWLn extend in the first direction DR1 from the second scan driving circuit SD2. The light emitting control lines EML1 to EMLn extend in a direction opposite to the first direction DR1 from the light emitting driving circuit EDC. The scan lines SCL0 to SCLn, the scan lines SWL0 to SWLn, and the light emitting control lines EML1 to EMLn are arranged to be spaced apart from each other in the second direction DR2. The data lines DL1 to DLm extend in a direction opposite to the second direction DR2 from the data driving circuit 200 and are arranged to be spaced apart from each other in the first direction DR1.

Each of the plurality of pixels PX is electrically connected to two corresponding scan lines among the scan lines SCL0 to SCLn and two corresponding scan lines among the scan lines SWL0 to SWLn. In addition, each of the plurality of pixels PX is electrically connected to a corresponding one of the light emitting control lines EML1 to EMLn and a corresponding one of the data lines DL1 to DLm, respectively. According to some embodiments, for example, as shown in FIG. 2, pixels PX in the first row may be connected to scan lines SCL0 and SCL1 and scan lines SWL0 and SWL1. Also, the pixels PX in the second row may be connected to the scan lines SCL1 and SCL2 and the scan lines SWL1 and SWL2.

Each of the plurality of pixels PX includes an organic light emitting diode ED (refer to FIG. 3) and a pixel circuit unit PXC (refer to FIG. 3) that controls light emission of the organic light emitting diode ED. The pixel circuit unit PXC may include a plurality of transistors and a capacitor. The first scan driving circuit SD1, the second scan driving circuit SD2, and the light emitting driving circuit EDC may include transistors formed through the same process as the pixel circuit unit.

Each of the pixels PX receives a first driving voltage ELVDD, a second driving voltage ELVSS, and an initialization voltage VINT.

The first scan driving circuit SD1 receives the first scan control signal SCS1 from the driving controller 100. The first scan driving circuit SD1 may output scan signals to the scan lines SCL0 to SCLn in response to the first scan control signal SCS1. The second scan driving circuit SD2 receives the second scan control signal SCS2 from the driving controller 100. The second scan driving circuit SD2 may output scan signals to the scan lines SWL0 to SWLn in response to the second scan control signal SCS2. The light emitting driving circuit EDC may output light emitting control signals to the light emitting control lines EML1 to EMLn in response to the light emitting control signal ECS.

The circuit configuration and operation of the first scan driving circuit SD1 will be described in more detail later.

It is shown and described with reference to FIG. 2 that the first scan driving circuit SD1 outputs scan signals to the scan lines SCL0 to SCLn, the second scan driving circuit SD2 outputs scan signals to the scan lines SWL0 to SWLn, and the light emitting driving circuit EDC outputs light emitting control signals to the light emitting control lines EML1 to EMLn. However, embodiments according to the inventive concept are not limited thereto. According to some embodiments, for example, the first scan driving circuit SD1 and the second scan driving circuit SD2 are configured as a single circuit, or the first scan driving circuit SD1, the second scan driving circuit SD2, and the light emitting driving circuit EDC may be configured as a single circuit.

The driving controller 100 according to some embodiments divides the display panel DP into the first display area DA1 (refer to FIG. 1) and the second display area DA2 (refer to FIG. 1) based on the image signal RGB, and outputs at least one masking signal indicating the start point of the second display area DA2. At least one masking signal may be included in each of the first scan control signal SCS1.

The first scan driving circuit SD1 and the second scan driving circuit SD2 according to some embodiments may drive scan lines corresponding to the first display area DA1 among the scan lines SCL0 to SCLn at a first driving frequency in response to the first scan control signal SCS1, and drive scan lines corresponding to the second display area DA2 at a second driving frequency different from the first driving frequency.

FIG. 3 is an equivalent circuit diagram of a pixel according to some embodiments of the inventive concept.

FIG. 3 shows an equivalent circuit diagram of a pixel PXij connected to the i-th data line DLi among the data lines DL1 to DLm shown in FIG. 2, the (j-1)-th scan line SCLj-1, and the j-th scan line SCLj among the scan lines SCL0 to SCLn, the (j-1)-th scan line SWLj-1, and the j-th scan line SWLj among the scan lines SWL0 to SWLn, and the j-th light emitting control line EMLj among the light emitting control lines EML1 to EMLn.

According to some embodiments, the pixel circuit unit PXC of the pixel PXij includes first to seventh transistors T1 to T7 and one capacitor Cst. Each of the first, second, fifth, sixth, and seventh transistors T1, T2, T5, T6, and T7 is a P-type transistor having a low-temperature polycrystalline silicon (LTPS) semiconductor layer, and each of the third and fourth transistors T3 and T4 is an N-type transistor having an oxide semiconductor as a semiconductor layer. However, embodiments according to the inventive concept are not limited thereto, and all of the first to seventh transistors T1 to T7 may be N-type transistors or P-type transistors. According to some embodiments, at least one of the first to seventh transistors T1 to T7 may be an N-type transistor, and the other may be a P-type transistor. In addition, the pixel circuit unit PXC shown in FIG. 3 is only an example, and the circuit configuration of the pixel circuit unit PXC may be modified and implemented.

Referring to FIG. 3, a pixel PXij of the display device according to some embodiments includes at least one organic light emitting diode ED. According to some embodiments, an example in which one pixel PXij includes one organic light emitting diode ED is described, but embodiments according to the inventive concept are not limited thereto.

For convenience of description, in the description of FIGS. 3 and 4, the (j-1)-th scan line SCLj-1, the j-th scan line SCLj, the (j-1)-th scan line SWLj-1, the j-th scan line

SWL_j, and the *j*-th light emitting control line EML_j are referred to as a first scan line SCL_{j-1}, a second scan line SCL_j, a third scan line SWL_{j-1}, a fourth scan line SWL_j, and a light emitting control line EML_j, respectively.

The first to fourth scan lines SCL_{j-1}, SCL_j, SWL_{j-1}, and SWL_j may transmit the first to fourth scan signals SC_{j-1}, SC_j, SW_{j-1}, and SW_j, respectively. The first scan signal SC_{j-1} may turn on/off the fourth transistor T₄. The second scan signal SC_j may turn on/off the third transistor T₃. The third scan signal SW_{j-1} may turn on/off the seventh transistor T₇. The fourth scan signal SW_j may turn on/off the second transistor T₂.

The light emitting control line EML_j may transmit a light emitting control signal EM_j capable of controlling light emission of the organic light emitting diode ED included in the pixel PX_{ij}. The light emitting control signal EM_j transmitted by the light emitting control line EML_j may have a different waveform from the first to fourth scan signals SC_{j-1}, SC_j, SW_{j-1}, and SW_j. The data line DL_i transmits the data signal Di. The data signal Di may have a voltage level corresponding to the image signal RGB inputted to the display device DD (refer to FIG. 2). The first to third driving voltage lines VL₁, VL₂, and VL₃ may transmit a first driving voltage ELVDD, a second driving voltage ELVSS, and an initialization voltage VINT, respectively.

The first transistor T₁ includes a first electrode connected to the first driving voltage line VL₁ through the fifth transistor T₅, a second electrode electrically connected to the anode of the organic light emitting diode ED through the sixth transistor T₆, and a gate electrode connected to one end of the capacitor C_{st}. The first transistor T₁ may receive the data signal Di transmitted from the data line DL_i according to the switching operation of the second transistor T₂ and may supply the driving current Id to the organic light emitting diode ED.

The second transistor T₂ includes a first electrode connected to the data line DL_i, a second electrode connected to the first electrode of the first transistor T₁, and a gate electrode connected to the fourth scan line SWL_j. The second transistor T₂ may be turned on according to the fourth scan signal SW_j received through the fourth scan line SWL_j, and thus transmit the data signal Di transmitted from the data line DL_i to the first electrode of the first transistor T₁.

The third transistor T₃ includes a first electrode connected to the gate electrode of the first transistor T₁, a second electrode connected to the second electrode of the first transistor T₁, and a gate electrode connected to the second scan line SCL_j. The third transistor T₃ may be turned on according to the second scan signal SC_j received through the second scan line SCL_j, and thus diode-connect the first transistor T₁ by connecting the gate electrode and the second electrode of the first transistor T₁ to each other.

The fourth transistor T₄ includes a first electrode connected to the gate electrode of the first transistor T₁, a second electrode connected to the third voltage line VL₃ through which the initialization voltage VINT is transmitted, and a gate electrode connected to the first scan line SCL_{j-1}. The fourth transistor T₄ may be turned on according to the first scan signal SC_{j-1} received through the first scan line SCL_{j-1}, and thus perform an initialization operation of initializing the voltage of the gate electrode of the first transistor T₁ by transmitting the initialization voltage VINT to the gate electrode of the first transistor T₁.

The fifth transistor T₅ includes a first electrode connected to the first driving voltage line VL₁, a second electrode

connected to the first electrode of the first transistor T₁, and a gate electrode connected to the light emitting control line EML_j.

The sixth transistor T₆ includes a first electrode connected to the second electrode of the first transistor T₁, a second electrode connected to the anode of the organic light emitting diode ED, and a gate electrode connected to the light emitting control line EML_j.

The fifth transistor T₅ and the sixth transistor T₆ are simultaneously turned on according to the light emitting control signal EM_j received through the light emitting control line EML_j such that through this, the first driving voltage ELVDD may be compensated through the diode-connected first transistor T₁ and transmitted to the organic light emitting diode ED.

The seventh transistor T₇ includes a first electrode connected to the second electrode of the fourth transistor T₄, a second electrode connected to the second electrode of the sixth transistor T₆, and a gate electrode connected to the third scan line SWL_{j-1}.

As described above, one end of the capacitor C_{st} is connected to the gate electrode of the first transistor T₁, and the other end is connected to the first driving voltage line VL₁. The cathode of the organic light emitting diode ED may be connected to the second driving voltage line VL₂ transmitting the second driving voltage ELVSS. The structure of the pixel PX_{ij} according to some embodiments is not limited to the structure shown in FIG. 3, and the number of transistors, the number of capacitors, and the connection relation in one pixel PX_{ij} may be variously modified.

FIG. 4 is a timing diagram illustrating an operation of a pixel PX_{ij} shown in FIG. 3. An operation of the display device according to some embodiments will be described in more detail with reference to FIGS. 3 and 4.

Referring to FIGS. 3 and 4, a high level first scan signal SC_{j-1} is supplied through a first scan line SCL_{j-1} during an initialization period within one frame. The fourth transistor T₄ is turned on in response to the high-level first scan signal SC_{j-1}, and the initialization voltage VINT is transmitted to the gate electrode of the first transistor T₁ through the fourth transistor T₄, so that the first transistor T₁ is initialized.

Meanwhile, the seventh transistor T₇ is turned on by receiving the low-level third scan signal SW_{j-1} through the third scan line SWL_{j-1}. A part of the driving current Id may be passed through the seventh transistor T₇ as the bypass current I_{bp} by the seventh transistor T₇.

Even when the minimum current of the first transistor T₁ for displaying a black image flows as the driving current, if the organic light emitting diode ED emits light, the black image is not properly displayed. Accordingly, the seventh transistor T₇ in the pixel PX_{ij} according to some embodiments of the inventive concept may distribute a part of the minimum current of the first transistor T₁ as the bypass current I_{bp} to a current path other than the current path toward the organic light emitting diode ED. Here, the minimum current of the first transistor T₁ means a current under the condition that the first transistor T₁ is turned off because the gate-source voltage V_{gs} of the first transistor T₁ is smaller than the threshold voltage V_{th}. The minimum driving current (e.g., a current of 10 pA or less) under the condition that the first transistor T₁ is turned off is transmitted to the organic light emitting diode ED to be expressed as a black luminance image. It may be said that when a minimum driving current for displaying a black image flows, the influence of bypass transmission of the bypass current I_{bp} is large, and when a large driving current for displaying an image such as a normal image or a white

image flows, there is almost no influence of the bypass current I_{bp} . Therefore, when a driving current for displaying a black image flows, the light emission current led of the organic light emitting diode ED, which is reduced from the drive current I_d by the amount of the bypass current I_{bp} exiting through the seventh transistor T7, may have a minimum current amount at a level that may reliably express a black image. Accordingly, an accurate black luminance image may be realized by using the seventh transistor T7, so that the contrast ratio may be improved. According to some embodiments, the bypass signal is the third scan signal SW_{j-1} , but embodiments according to the present disclosure are not limited thereto.

Next, when the high level second scan signal SC_j is supplied through the second scan line SCL_j during the data programming and compensation period, the third transistor T3 is turned on. The first transistor T1 is diode-connected by the turned-on third transistor T3, and is biased in the forward direction. Also, the second transistor T2 is turned on by the low-level fourth scan signal SW_j . Then, the compensation voltage $D_i - V_{th}$, which is reduced by the threshold voltage V_{th} of the first transistor T1 from the data signal D_i supplied from the data line DLi , is applied to the gate electrode of the first transistor T1. That is, the gate voltage applied to the gate electrode of the first transistor T1 may be the compensation voltage $D_i - V_{th}$.

The first driving voltage ELVDD and the compensation voltage $D_i - V_{th}$ are applied to both ends of the capacitor C_{st} and the charge corresponding to the voltage difference between both ends may be stored in the capacitor C_{st} .

Next, during the light emission period, the light emitting control signal EM_j supplied from the light emitting control line EML_j is changed from the high level to the low level. During the light emission period, the fifth transistor T5 and the sixth transistor T6 are turned on by the low-level light emitting control signal EM_j . Then, a driving current I_d corresponding to the voltage difference between the gate voltage of the gate electrode of the first transistor T1 and the first driving voltage ELVDD is generated, and the driving current I_d is supplied to the organic light emitting diode ED through the sixth transistor T6 so that the light emission current led flows through the organic light emitting diode ED.

In FIG. 4, it is shown that the high level section of the first scan signal SC_{j-1} and the high level section of the second scan signal SC_j do not overlap in time. According to some embodiments, a high level section of the first scan signal SC_{j-1} and a high level section of the second scan signal SC_j may partially overlap.

FIG. 5 is a block diagram of a first scan driving circuit SD1 according to some embodiments of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 5, the first scan driving circuit SD1 includes driving stages ST0 to STn.

Each of the driving stages ST0 to STn receives a first scan control signal SCS1 from the driving controller 100 illustrated in FIG. 2. The first scan control signal SCS1 includes a start signal FLM, a first clock signal CLK1, a second clock signal CLK2, and a masking signal MS. Each of the driving stages ST0 to STn receives a first voltage VGL and a second voltage VGH. The first voltage VGL and the second voltage VGH may be provided from the voltage generator 300 illustrated in FIG. 2.

The masking signal MS is a signal for driving some of the driving stages ST0 to STn at a normal frequency and driving the rest at a low frequency. The masking signal MS may be

commonly provided to all driving stages ST0 to STn in the first scan driving circuit SD1.

According to some embodiments, the driving stages ST0 to STn output scan signals SC_0 to SC_n . The scan signals SC_0 to SC_n may be provided to the scan lines SCL_0 to SCL_n shown in FIG. 2.

The driving stage ST0 may receive the start signal FLM as a carry signal. Each of the driving stages ST1 to STn has a dependent connection relationship in which a scan signal output from a previous driving stage is received as a carry signal. Among the driving stages ST1 to STn, the scan signal SC_j output from the j-th driving stage STj may be provided as a carry signal of the (j+k)-th driving stage STj+k (j and k are natural numbers). According to some embodiments, for example, the driving stage ST1 receives the scan signal SC_0 output from the previous driving stage ST0 as a carry signal, and the driving stage ST2 receives the scan signal SC_1 output from the previous driving stage ST1 as a carry signal. FIG. 5 illustrates that the j-th driving stage STj receives the scan signal from the (j-1)-th driving stage STj-1 as a carry signal, but embodiments according to the inventive concept are not limited thereto.

FIG. 6 is a diagram illustrating scan signals SC_0 to SC_n output from the first scan driving circuit SD1 illustrated in FIG. 5 in a normal mode and a low power mode.

Referring to FIGS. 5 and 6, the masking signal MS is maintained at a high level during the normal mode N-MODE. During the normal mode N-MODE, the driving stages ST0 to STn sequentially output scan signals SC_0 to SC_n at a high level in each of the frames F1, F2, and F3.

In the low power mode L-MODE, the masking signal MS is changed from a high level to a low level every frame. According to some embodiments, for example, while the masking signal MS is maintained at the high level in the fourth frame F4, the scan signals SC_0 to SC_{1920} may be sequentially output at the high level. When the masking signal MS is changed to the low level in the fourth frame F4, the scan signals SC_{1921} to SC_{3840} are maintained at the low level.

FIG. 7 shows scan signals SC_0 to SC_{3840} in a low power mode.

Referring to FIG. 7, in the low power mode, the frequency of scan signals SC_0 to SC_{1920} is 120 Hz, and the frequency of scan signals SC_{1921} to SC_{3840} is 1 Hz.

According to some embodiments, for example, the scan signals SC_0 to SC_{1920} correspond to the first display area DA1 of the display device DD illustrated in FIG. 1, and the scan signals SC_{1921} to SC_{3840} correspond to the second display area DA2. The first display area DA1 in which the video is displayed is driven by scan signals SC_0 to SC_{1920} of a normal frequency (e.g., 120 Hz), and the second display area DA2 in which a still image is displayed is driven by scan signals SC_{1921} to SC_{3840} of a low frequency (e.g., 1 Hz). Because only the second display area DA2 in which the still image is displayed is driven at a low frequency, power consumption can be reduced without deteriorating the display quality of the display device DD (refer to FIG. 1). In the low power mode, some of the scan signals SC_0 to SC_{3840} are driven at a normal frequency and some of the scan signals SC_0 to SC_{3840} are driven at a low frequency, so the low power mode may be referred to as a multi-frequency mode.

FIG. 8 is a circuit diagram illustrating a j-th driving stage STj in the first scan driving circuit SD1 according to some embodiments of the inventive concept.

FIG. 8 illustrates a of a j-th driving stage STj (j is a positive integer) among the driving stages ST0 to STn

illustrated in FIG. 5. Each of the plurality of driving stages ST0 to STn illustrated in FIG. 5 may include the same circuit configuration as the j-th driving stage STj illustrated in FIG. 8. Hereinafter, the j-th driving stage STj is referred to as a driving stage STj.

Referring to FIG. 8, the driving stage STj includes a driving circuit DC, a masking circuit MSC, first to sixth input terminals IN1-IN6, and an output terminal OUT1.

The driving circuit DC includes transistors NT1 to NT12 and capacitors NC1 to NC3. Each of the transistors NT1-NT12 is illustrated and described as a P-type transistor, but embodiments according to the inventive concept are not limited thereto. Some or all of the transistors NT1-NT12 may be N-type transistors.

The driving circuit DC receives a carry signal CRj-1, a first clock signal CLK1, a second clock signal CLK2, a first voltage VGL, and a second voltage VGH through the first to fifth input terminals IN1 to IN5, and outputs the scan signal SCj through the output terminal OUT1.

The carry signal CRj-1 received through the first input terminal IN1 may be a scan signal SCj-1 output from the previous driving stage Stj-1 shown in FIG. 5. The carry signal CRj-1 of the driving stage ST0 illustrated in FIG. 5 may be a start signal FLM.

The fourth input terminal IN4 of each of some of the driving stages ST0 to STn illustrated in FIG. 5 (e.g., odd-numbered driving stages) receives the first clock signal CLK1, and the fifth input terminals IN5 receive the second clock signal CLK2. In addition, the fourth input terminal IN4 of each of some of the driving stages ST0 to STn (e.g., even-numbered driving stages) receives the second clock signal CLK2, and the fifth input terminals IN5 receive the first clock signal CLK1.

The transistor NT1 is connected between the first input terminal IN1 and the first node N1, and includes a gate electrode connected to the fourth input terminal IN4. The transistor NT2 is connected between the second input terminal IN2 and the sixth node N6, and includes a gate electrode connected to the fourth node N4. The transistor NT3 is connected between the sixth node N6 and the fifth input terminal IN5, and includes a gate electrode connected to the second node N2.

The transistors NT4-1 and NT4-2 are connected in series between the fourth node N4 and the fourth input terminal IN4. Each of the transistors NT4-1 and NT4-2 includes a gate electrode connected to the first node N1. The transistor NT5 is connected between the fourth node N4 and the third input terminal IN3 and includes a gate electrode connected to the fourth input terminal IN4. The transistor NT6 is connected between the third node N3 and the seventh node N7, and includes a gate electrode connected to the fifth input terminal IN5. The transistor NT7 is connected between the seventh node N7 and the fifth input terminal IN5, and includes a gate electrode connected to the fifth node N5.

The transistor NT8 is connected between the second input terminal IN2 and the third node N3, and includes a gate electrode connected to the first node N1. The transistor NT9 is connected between the second input terminal IN2 and the output terminal OUT1, and includes a gate electrode connected to the third node N3. The transistor NT10 is connected between the output terminal OUT1 and the third input terminal IN3 and includes a gate electrode connected to the second node N2. The transistor NT11 is connected between the fourth node N4 and the fifth node N5 and includes a gate electrode connected to the third input terminal IN3. The transistor NT12 is connected between the

first node N1 and the second node N2 and includes a gate electrode connected to the third input terminal IN3.

The capacitor NC1 is connected between the second input terminal IN2 and the third node N3. The capacitor NC2 is connected between the fifth node N5 and the seventh node N7. The capacitor NC3 is connected between the sixth node N6 and the second node N2.

The masking circuit MSC includes transistors NT21 and NT22. The masking circuit MSC may stop (or mask) the output of the scan signal SCj in response to the masking signal MS and the scan signal SCj received through the sixth input terminal IN6.

The transistor NT21 is connected between the first node N1 and the masking node MN1 and includes a gate electrode connected to the sixth input terminal IN6. The transistor NT22 is connected between the masking node MN1 and the third input terminal IN3 and includes a gate electrode connected to the output terminal OUT1.

FIG. 9 is a timing diagram showing operations of the (j-1)-th driving stage Stj-1 and the j-th driving stage STj in the low power mode.

Referring to FIGS. 8 and 9, the first clock signal CLK1 and the second clock signal CLK2 are signals having the same frequency and transitioning to an active level (e.g., a low level) in different horizontal sections H. The horizontal section H is a time when the pixels PX in one row in the first direction DR1 of the display panel DP (refer to FIG. 2) are driven.

While the masking signal MS is at a high level, because the transistor NT21 in the masking circuit MSC of the (j-1)-th driving stage Stj-1 maintains a turned off state, the (j-1)-th driving stage Stj-1 may output the (j-1)-th scan signal SCj-1 in response to the carry signal CRj-1, the first clock signal CLK1, and the second clock signal CLK2.

When the masking signal MS transitions from the high level to the low level in the (j-2)-th horizontal section Hj-2, the transistor NT21 in the masking circuit MSC of the (j-1)-th driving stage Stj-1 is turned on. At this time, because the (j-1)-th driving stage Stj-1 already outputs the (j-1)-th scan signal SCj-1 of the high level, the transistor NT22 in the masking circuit MSC may be maintained in a turned off state. Therefore, the (j-1)-th driving stage Stj-1, which outputs the (j-1)-th scan signal SCj-1 that is already activated at the high level, can normally output the (j-1)-th scan signal SCj-1.

When the masking signal MS transitions from the high level to the low level in the (j-2)-th horizontal section Hj-2, the transistor NT21 in the masking circuit MSC of the j-th driving stage STj is turned on. Also, the transistor NT22 may be turned on in response to the low-level j-th scan signal SCj. As the transistor NT22 is turned on, the first node N1 is discharged (or sinked) as the first voltage VGL through the third input terminal IN3.

In a state in which the first node N1 is electrically connected to the third input terminal IN3, even if the carry signal CRj-1, that is, the (j-1)-th scan signal SCj-1 from the previous stage Stj-1, transitions to the high level, the first node N1 is maintained at a low level. As each of the first node N1 and the second node N2 is maintained at the low level, the transistor NT10 is turned on, so that the output terminal OUT1 outputs the low-level j-th scan signal SCj. While the transistors NT21 and NT22 are turned on, the j-th scan signal SCj may be maintained at a low level.

The (j+1)-th driving stage STj+1 receiving the low-level j-th scan signal SCj as the carry signal CRj outputs the low-level (j+1)-th scan signal SCj+1.

As shown in FIGS. 8 and 9, when the masking signal MS transitions from a high level to a low level, a scan signal (e.g., the (j-1)-th scan signal SC_{j-1}) that has already transitioned to a high level may be normally output.

In this way, when the (j-1)-th scan signal SC_{j-1} is an active level (e.g., a high level) and the masking signal MS transitions from a high level to a low level in the (j-2)-th horizontal section H_{j-2} where the j-th scan signal SC_j is an inactive level (e.g., a low level), the j-th scan signal SC_j may be masked.

When the masking signal MS transitions from a high level to a low level, the low-level scan signals (e.g., the j-th scan signal SC_j and the (j+1)-th scan signal SC_{j+1}) are maintained at the low level. Therefore, the output of the scan signal can be stopped (or masked) by adjusting the change time point of the masking signal MS.

FIG. 10 is a timing diagram illustrating an operation of a j-th driving stage ST_j in a low power mode.

Referring to FIGS. 8 and 10, if the masking signal MS is at a low level in the (j-1)-th horizontal section H_{j-1}, the transistor NT₂₁ in the masking circuit MSC of the j-th driving stage ST_j is turned on. Also, the transistor NT₂₂ may be turned on in response to the low-level j-th scan signal SC_j. As the transistor NT₂₂ is turned on, the first node N₁ is discharged (or sinked) as the first voltage VGL through the third input terminal IN₃. At this time, when the first clock signal CLK₁ transitions to the low level, a current path is formed between the first input terminal IN₁ and the third input terminal IN₃ through the transistors NT₁, NT₂₁, and NT₂₂ so that the carry signal CR_{j-1} may be discharged as the first voltage VGL. According to some embodiments, when the first clock signal CLK₁ transitions to the low level, the masking signal MS may be toggled to the high level. As a result, it is possible to prevent or reduce instances of a current path being formed between the first input terminal IN₁ and the third input terminal IN₃.

FIG. 11 is a circuit diagram showing a j-th driving stage ST_j in a scan driving circuit according to some embodiments of the inventive concept.

Because the driving circuit DC of the driving stage ST_j shown in FIG. 11 has the same configuration as the driving circuit DC of the driving stage ST_j shown in FIG. 8, the same reference numeral is added, and duplicate descriptions are omitted.

The driving stage ST_j includes a masking circuit MSC_a. The masking circuit MSC_a includes transistors NT₃₁ and NT₃₂. The masking circuit MSC_a may stop (or mask) the output of the scan signal SC_j in response to the masking signal MS₁ and the carry signal CR_{j-1} received through the sixth input terminal IN₆.

The transistor NT₃₁ is connected between the first node N₁ and the masking node MN₁ and includes a gate electrode connected to the sixth input terminal IN₆. The transistor NT₃₂ is connected between the masking node MN₁ and the third input terminal IN₃, and includes a gate electrode connected to the first input terminal IN₁.

The gate electrode of the transistor NT₂₂ in the masking circuit MSC shown in FIG. 8 is connected to the output terminal OUT₁, but the gate electrode of the transistor NT₃₂ in the masking circuit MSC_a shown in FIG. 11 is connected to the first input terminal IN₁.

FIG. 12 is a timing diagram illustrating a operation of a j-th driving stage ST_j in a low power mode.

Referring to FIGS. 11 and 12, when it is to mask the j-th scan signal SC_j output from the j-th driving stage ST_j to a

low level, the masking signal MS₁ must transition from the high level to the low level during the (j-3)-th horizontal section H_{j-3}.

When the masking signal MS₁ is at a low level in the (j-3)-th horizontal section H_{j-3}, the transistor NT₃₁ in the masking circuit MSC_a of the j-th driving stage ST_j is turned on. In addition, the transistor NT₃₂ may also be turned on in response to the low-level carry signal CR_{j-1} (i.e., the (j-1)-th scan signal SC_{j-1}). As the transistor NT₃₂ is turned on, the first node N₁ is discharged as the first voltage VGL through the third input terminal IN₃, and the output terminal OUT₁ is discharged as the first voltage VGL through the transistor NT₁₀. As a result, the j-th scan signal SC_j is maintained at the low level.

When the carry signal CR_{j-1} (i.e., the (j-1)-th scan signal SC_{j-1}) transitions to the high level in the (j-2)-th horizontal section H_{j-2}, because the first clock signal CLK₁ is at a high level, the first node N₁ and the second node N₂ may be maintained at a low level. Meanwhile, as the first node N₁ is maintained at a low level, because the transistor NT₈ is maintained in a turned-on state, the node N₃ is at a high level, and the transistor NT₉ is not turned on. Accordingly, the j-th scan signal SC_j may be maintained at a low level.

When the first clock signal CLK₁ transitions to the low level in the (j-1)-th horizontal section H_{j-1}, the high-level carry signal CR_{j-1} (i.e., the (j-1)-th scan signal SC_{j-1}) is transmitted to the first node N₁ and the second node N₂. The transistor NT₁₀ is turned off in response to a signal from the second node N₂ of the high level. The transistor NT₈ is turned off in response to a signal of the first node N₁ having a high level, but the third node N₃ may be maintained at a high level by the capacitor NC₁. As a result, the j-th scan signal SC_j is maintained at the low level.

When the second clock signal CLK₂ transitions to the low level in the j-th horizontal section H_j, the second node N₂ changes to a low level of a lower voltage by the capacitor NC₂, so that the transistor NT₁₀ is turned on. Therefore, the j-th scan signal SC_j is maintained at a low level.

When the first clock signal CLK₁ transitions to the low level in the j+1th horizontal section H_{j+1}, the low-level carry signal CR_{j-1} (i.e., the (j-1)-th scan signal SC_{j-1}) is transmitted to the first node N₁ and the second node N₂. The transistor NT₉ is not turned on as the transistor NT₈ is turned on in response to a signal from the low-level first node N₁. As the transistor NT₁₀ is turned on in response to a signal from the second node N₂ of the low level, the j-th scan signal SC_j is maintained at the low level.

In this way, when the (j-2)-th scan signal SC_{j-2}, that is, the carry signal SC_{j-2}, is the active level (e.g., high level) and the masking signal MS₁ transitions from a high level to a low level in the (j-3)-th horizontal section H_{j-3} where the (j-1)-th scan signal SC_{j-1}, that is, the carry signal SC_{j-1}, is at an inactive level (e.g., low level), the j-th scan signal SC_j may be masked.

FIG. 13 is a circuit diagram showing a j-th driving stage ST_j in a scan driving circuit according to some embodiments of the inventive concept.

Because the driving circuit DC of the driving stage ST_j shown in FIG. 13 has the same configuration as the driving circuit DC of the driving stage ST_j shown in FIG. 8, the same reference numeral is added, and duplicate descriptions are omitted.

The driving stage ST_j includes a masking circuit MSC_b. The masking circuit MSC_b includes transistors NT₄₁ and NT₄₂. The masking circuit MSC_b may stop (or mask) the output of the scan signal SC_j in response to the masking

signal MS received through the sixth input terminal IN6 and the signal of the first node N1.

The transistor NT41 is connected between the first node N1 and the masking node MN1 and includes a gate electrode connected to the sixth input terminal IN6. The transistor NT42 is connected between the masking node MN1 and the third input terminal IN3, and includes a gate electrode connected to the first node N1.

The gate electrode of the transistor NT22 in the masking circuit MSC shown in FIG. 8 is connected to the output terminal OUT1, but the gate electrode of the transistor NT42 in the masking circuit MSCb shown in FIG. 13 is connected to the first node N1.

The signal of the first node N1 is similar to the carry signal CR_{j-1}. Accordingly, the masking circuit MSCb operating in response to the signal of the first node N1 and the masking signal MS may operate similarly to the masking circuit MSCa shown in FIG. 11.

The masking circuit MSC illustrated in FIG. 8 may stop the driving circuit DC from outputting the scan signal SC_j in response to the masking signal MS and the scan signal SC_j. The masking circuit MSCa illustrated in FIG. 11 may stop the driving circuit DC from outputting the scan signal SC_j in response to the masking signal MS1 and the carry signal CR_{j-1}. The masking circuit MSCb illustrated in FIG. 13 may stop the driving circuit DC from outputting the scan signal SC_j in response to the masking signal MS and the signal of the first node N1.

The scan signal SC_j, the carry signal CR_{j-1}, and the signal of the first node N1 are all signals indicating the operating state of the driving circuit DC. That is, even if the masking signal MS or MS1 is at a low level, when the driving circuit DC outputs the scan signal SC_j of an active level (e.g., a high level), the masking circuit MSC, the masking circuit MSCa, and the masking circuit MSCb allow the scan signal SC_j of the active level to be normally output.

When the masking signal MS or MS1 is at a low level, if the driving circuit DC is in a state in which the scan signal SC_j of an inactive level (e.g., a low level) is output, the masking circuit MSC, the masking circuit MSCa, and the masking circuit MSCb control the driving circuit DC not to output the scan signal SC_j of the active level, that is, control the scan signal SC_j to be maintained at an inactive level.

As a result, the first scan driving circuit SD1 (refer to FIG. 5) may be driven from the first scan line SL1 to the (j-1)-th scan line SCL_{j-1} at a normal frequency, and may be driven from the j-th scan line SCL_j to the n-th scan line SL_n at a low frequency. For example, even if the masking signal MS or MS1 transitions to the low level while the (j-1)-th scan line SCL_{j-1} is driven in an active level (e.g., high level), the (j-1)-th scan line SCL_{j-1} may be normally driven by the normal frequency scan signal SC_{j-1}.

FIG. 14 is a block diagram of a first scan driving circuit SD11 according to some embodiments of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 14, a first scan driving circuit SD11 includes driving stages ST0 to ST_n and masking circuits MSC1 to MSC_n. Each of the driving stages ST0 to ST_n may have the same circuit configuration as the driving stages ST0 to ST_n in the first scan driving circuit SD1 illustrated in FIG. 5.

The masking circuits MSC1 to MSC_n correspond to the driving stages ST1 to ST_n, respectively. Each of the masking circuits MSC1 to MSC_n may selectively provide a scan signal output from the previous driving stage as a carry signal to a corresponding driving stage in response to the

masking signal MS and the scan signal output from the corresponding driving stage among driving stages ST0 to ST_n.

FIG. 15 shows a circuit configuration of a j-th masking circuit MSC_j corresponding to the j-th driving stage ST_j among the masking circuits MSC1 to MSC_n illustrated in FIG. 14.

Referring to FIG. 15, a j-th masking circuit (hereinafter, masking circuit) MSC_j includes a first switch SW1 and a second switch SW2. The first switch SW1 is connected between the voltage terminal VIN1 receiving the first voltage VGL and the second switch SW2, and operates in response to the j-th scan signal SC_j. The second switch SW2 is connected between the first switch SW1 and the carry node CRN receiving the carry signal CR_{j-1}, and operates in response to the masking signal MS. The (j-1)-th scan signal SC_{j-1} output from the previous stage (that is, the (j-1)-th driving stage ST_{j-1}), may be provided as a carry signal CR_{j-1} to the carry node CRN.

If the masking signal MS is at the first level (e.g., high level), because the second switch SW2 is turned off, the carry node CRN and the voltage terminal VIN1 may be electrically separated.

When the masking signal MS is at the second level (e.g., low level), the second switch SW2 is turned on. At this time, if the j-th scan signal SC_j is at the first level (e.g., high level), because the first switch SW1 is turned off, the carry node CRN and the voltage terminal VIN1 may be electrically separated. On the other hand, if the j-th scan signal SC_j is at the second level (e.g., low level), because the first switch SW1 is turned on, the carry node CRN and the voltage terminal VIN1 may be electrically connected.

In other words, if at least one of the masking signal MS or the j-th scan signal SC_j is at the first level (e.g., high level), the carry node CRN and the voltage terminal VIN1 are electrically separated. If both the masking signal MS and the j-th scan signal SC_j are at the second level (e.g., low level), both the first switch SW1 and the second switch SW2 are turned on so that the carry node CRN is electrically connected to the voltage terminal VIN1. Therefore, because the carry node CRN is discharged as the first voltage VGL, the j-th driving stage ST_j may receive a low-level carry signal CR_{j-1} and output a low-level scan signal ST_j.

FIG. 16 shows a circuit configuration of a j-th masking circuit MSC_{dj} corresponding to a j-th driving stage ST_j.

Referring to FIG. 16, a j-th masking circuit (hereinafter, masking circuit) MSC_{dj} includes first to third logic circuits LC11 to LC13. The first logic circuit LC11 and the second logic circuit LC12 may be an AND gate circuit, and the third logic circuit LC13 may be an OR gate circuit.

The first logic circuit LC11 receives the j-th scan signal SC_j and the carry signal CR_{j-1} (i.e., the (j-1)-th scan signal SC_{j-1}). The second logic circuit LC12 receives the masking signal MS and the carry signal CR_{j-1}. The third logic circuit LC13 receives the outputs of the first logic circuit LC11 and the second logic circuit LC12 and outputs a (j-1)-th carry signal CR_{j-1}.

When the masking signal MS is a high level, the second logic circuit LC12 may output a signal corresponding to the carry signal CR_{j-1}. Accordingly, the masking circuit MSC_{dj} may provide the carry signal CR_{j-1} to the driving stage ST_j while the masking signal MS is at a high level.

When the masking signal MS is at a low level, the second logic circuit LC12 outputs a low level signal, and the first logic circuit LC11 outputs a high level signal when all of the j-th scan signal SC_j and the carry signal CR_{j-1} are at a high level. Accordingly, while the masking signal MS is at a low

level, only when both the j -th scan signal SC_j and the carry signal CR_{j-1} are at a high level, the masking circuit MSC_{dj} may provide the high-level carry signal CR_{j-1} to the driving stage ST_j .

As described above, the masking circuit MSC_{dj} including logic gate circuits selectively provides the carry signal CR_{j-1} to the driving stage ST_j in response to the masking signal MS , the carry signal CR_{j-1} , and the j -th scan signal SC_j . In other words, the masking circuit MSC_{dj} illustrated in FIG. 16 may selectively mask the input of the carry signal CR_{j-1} to the j -th driving stage ST_j .

The driving stage ST_j may output the scan signal SC_j in response to the carry signal CR_{j-1} , the first voltage VGL , the second voltage VGH , the first clock signal $CLK1$, and the second clock signal $CLK2$. When the carry signal CR_{j-1} is not activated to a high level and is maintained at a low level, the driving stage ST_j outputs a low-level scan signal SC_j . Accordingly, the scan signals SC_j to SC_n can be driven at a low frequency from the start point (e.g., the j -th scan line SCL_j) of the second display area $DA2$ (refer to FIG. 1).

FIG. 17 shows a circuit configuration of a j -th masking circuit MSC_{ej} corresponding to a j -th driving stage ST_j .

Referring to FIG. 17, a j -th masking circuit (hereinafter, masking circuit) MSC_{ej} includes first to fourth logic circuits $LC21$ to $LC24$. The first logic circuit $LC21$ and the third logic circuit $LC23$ may be an AND gate circuit, the second logic circuit $LC22$ may be an inverter circuit, and the fourth logic circuit $LC24$ may be an OR gate circuit.

The first logic circuit $LC21$ receives the masking signal MS and the j -th scan signal S_j from the j -th driving stage ST_j . The second logic circuit $LC22$ inverts and outputs the masking signal MS . The third logic circuit $LC23$ receives the j -th scan signal S_j , the inverted masking signal, and the j -th scan signal SC_j (or the j -th output scan signal SC_j) output from the masking circuit MSC_{ej} . The fourth logic circuit $LC24$ receives the outputs of the first logic circuit $LC21$ and the third logic circuit $LC23$, and outputs the j -th scan signal SC_j .

When the masking signal MS is at a high level, the first logic circuit $LC21$ may output the j -th scan signal S_j received from the j -th driving stage ST_j . Accordingly, the masking circuit MSC_{ej} may output the j -th scan signal S_j from the j -th driving stage ST_j as the j -th scan signal SC_j while the masking signal MS is at a high level.

When the masking signal MS is at a low level, the first logic circuit $LC21$ outputs a low level signal, and when both the j -th scan signal S_j from the j -th driving stage ST_j and the j -th scan signal SC_j from the masking circuit MSC_{ej} are at high levels, the third logic circuit $LC23$ outputs a high level signal. Therefore, only when both the j -th scan signal S_j and the j -th scan signal SC_j are at the high level while the masking signal MS is at the low level, the masking circuit MSC_{ej} may output the high-level j -th scan signal SC_j .

Accordingly, the masking circuit MSC_{ej} may output the j -th scan signal S_j from the j -th driving stage ST_j as the j -th scan signal SC_j while the masking signal MS is at a high level. In other words, the masking circuit MSC_{ej} illustrated in FIG. 17 may selectively mask the output of the j -th driving stage ST_j .

The driving stage ST_j may output the j -th scan signal S_j in response to the $(j-1)$ -th carry signal CR_{j-1} , the first voltage VGL , the second voltage VGH , the first clock signal $CLK1$, and the second clock signal $CLK2$. Because the masking circuit MSC_{ej} selectively outputs the j -th scan signal S_j as the j -th scan signal SC_j , the scan signals SC_j to

SC_n may be driven at a low frequency from a start point (e.g., the j -th scan line SCL_j) of the second display area $DA2$ (refer to FIG. 1).

A display device having such a configuration may drive a first display area in which a moving image is displayed and a second display area in which a still image is displayed with different driving frequencies. For example, power consumption can be reduced by lowering the driving frequency of the second display area in which the still image is displayed than the driving frequency of the first display area in which the moving image is displayed.

Although aspects of some embodiments of the inventive concept have been described, it is understood that the inventive concept should not be limited to these embodiments but various changes and modifications can be made by one ordinary skilled in the art within the spirit and scope of the inventive concept as hereinafter claimed.

What is claimed is:

1. A scan driving circuit comprising:
 - a driving circuit configured to transmit a carry signal to a first node in response to a clock signal, and to output a scan signal to an output terminal in response to the clock signal and the carry signal of the first node; and
 - a masking circuit electrically connected between the first node and a first voltage terminal, wherein the masking circuit comprises:
 - a first masking transistor configured to electrically connect the first node and a masking node in response to a masking signal; and
 - a second masking transistor configured to electrically connect the masking node and the first voltage terminal in response to a signal indicating an operating state of the driving circuit.
2. The scan driving circuit of claim 1, wherein the driving circuit comprises:
 - a first transistor configured to transmit the carry signal to the first node in response to the clock signal; and
 - a second transistor configured to connect the output terminal to the first voltage terminal in response to the carry signal of the first node.
3. The scan driving circuit of claim 2, wherein the first voltage terminal is configured to receive a first voltage.
4. The scan driving circuit of claim 2, wherein the driving circuit further comprises:
 - a third transistor connected between a second voltage terminal configured to receive a second voltage and the output terminal and comprising a gate electrode connected to a second node; and
 - a fourth transistor connected between the second voltage terminal and the second node and comprising a gate electrode connected to the first node.
5. The scan driving circuit of claim 1, wherein the signal indicating the operating state of the driving circuit is the carry signal or the scan signal.
6. The scan driving circuit of claim 1, wherein the second masking transistor is electrically connected between the masking node and the first voltage terminal and comprises a gate electrode connected to the output terminal configured to receive the scan signal.
7. The scan driving circuit of claim 1, wherein the second masking transistor is electrically connected between the masking node and the first voltage terminal and comprises a gate electrode connected to an input terminal configured to receive the carry signal.
8. The scan driving circuit of claim 1, wherein the second masking transistor is electrically connected between the

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masking node and the first voltage terminal and comprises a gate electrode connected to the first node.

9. A scan driving circuit comprising:
a driving circuit configured to output a scan signal in response to a clock signal and a carry signal; and
a masking circuit electrically connected to an input terminal configured to receive the carry signal and a first voltage terminal,

wherein the masking circuit comprises:

a first masking switch configured to electrically connect the first voltage terminal and a connection node in response to the scan signal; and

a second masking switch configured to electrically connect the input terminal and the connection node in response to a masking signal.

10. The scan driving circuit of claim 9, wherein the second masking switch is configured to electrically disconnect the input terminal and the connection node when the masking signal has a first level.

11. A display device comprising:

a display panel comprising a plurality of scan lines;
a scan driving circuit configured to drive the plurality of scan lines; and

a driving controller configured to control the scan driving circuit,

wherein the scan driving circuit comprises a plurality of driving stages, each of the plurality of driving stages being configured to drive a corresponding scan line from among the plurality of scan lines,

wherein each of the plurality of driving stages comprises:

a driving circuit configured to transmits a carry signal to a first node in response to a clock signal, and to output a scan signal to an output terminal in response to the clock signal and the carry signal of the first node; and
a masking circuit electrically connected between the first node and a first voltage terminal,

wherein the masking circuit comprises:

a first masking transistor configured to electrically connect the first node and a masking node in response to a masking signal; and

a second masking transistor configured to electrically connect the masking node and the first voltage terminal in response to a signal indicating an operating state of the driving circuit.

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12. The display device of claim 11, wherein the display panel comprises a first area and a second area, and the masking signal indicates a scan line corresponding to a start point of the second area from among the plurality of scan lines.

13. The display device of claim 11, wherein the driving circuit comprises:

a first transistor configured to transmit the carry signal to the first node in response to the clock signal; and

a second transistor configured to connect the output terminal to the first voltage terminal in response to the carry signal of the first node.

14. The display device of claim 13, wherein the first voltage terminal is configured to receive a first voltage.

15. The display device of claim 13, wherein the driving circuit further comprises:

a third transistor connected between a second voltage terminal configured to receive a second voltage and the output terminal and comprising a gate electrode connected to a second node; and

a fourth transistor connected between the second voltage terminal and the second node and comprising a gate electrode connected to the first node.

16. The display device of claim 11, wherein the signal indicating the operating state of the driving circuit is the carry signal or the scan signal.

17. The display device of claim 11, wherein the second masking transistor is electrically connected between the masking node and a first voltage terminal and comprises a gate electrode connected to the output terminal configured to receive the scan signal.

18. The display device of claim 11, wherein the second masking transistor is electrically connected between the masking node and a first voltage terminal and comprises a gate electrode connected to an input terminal configured to receive the carry signal.

19. The display device of claim 11, wherein the second masking transistor is electrically connected between the masking node and a first voltage terminal and comprises a gate electrode connected to the first node.

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